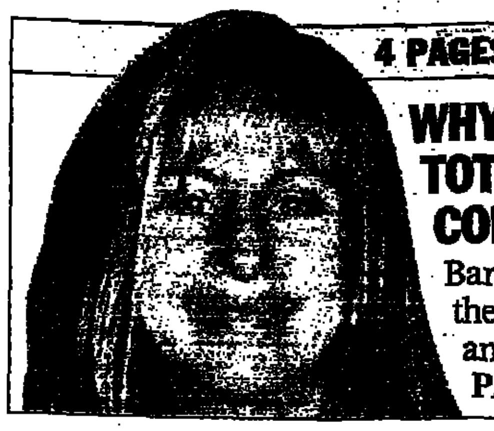
THE TIMES

No. 65,750

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

TODAY

10P



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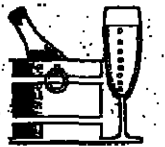

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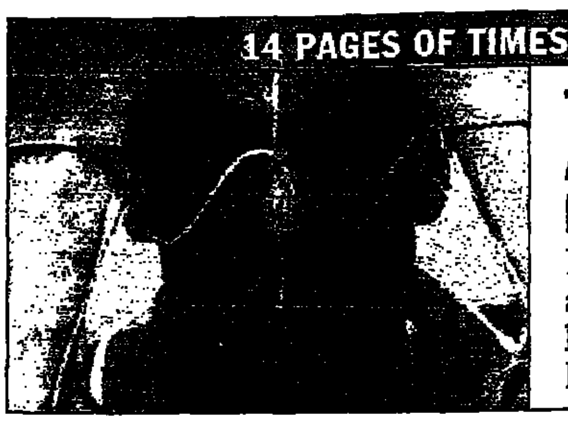

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Leeds give Vialli and Chelsea a headache
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TODAY

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

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Starts the *arts week*
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TOMORROW

PLAY TO WIN
In our £50,000 Interactive Team *Football game*

PLUS:
The Libby Purves column

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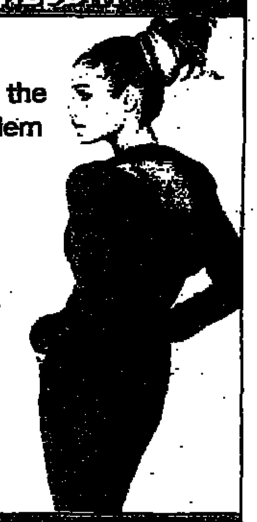

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Iain R Webb on the thoroughly modem Givenchy look

PLUS:
Interface
win your own *multi-media PC*

PLUS:
Nigella Lawson and
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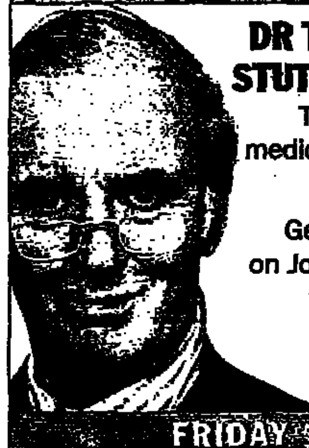
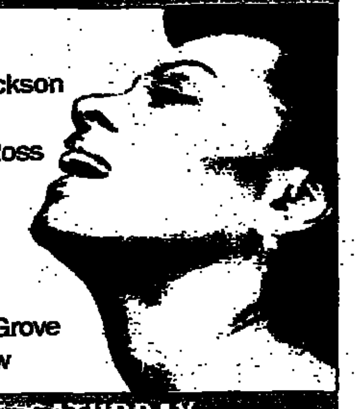
THURSDAY



DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD
The week's medical briefing

PLUS:
Geoff Brown on Jodie Foster

FRIDAY



POP
Alan Jackson meets Diana Ross

PLUS:
The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

HOLLYWOOD SHE-DEVIL
Glenn Close as Cruella DeVil

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

New rules may cap profits

Labour to fund gifted children from lottery

By Philip Webster, political editor

TALENTED youngsters will receive special funds to assist their development and turn them into the "Nobel Prize winners of the future" under radical plans by the Labour Party, to be announced today, for reshaping the National Lottery.

A Labour government would set *up a new "stream" of lottery money* with the funds dedicated to children and young people through the financing of specialist projects, including after-school clubs and "information technology cafés" where they could operate the latest computers. "Children *are our future,*" Jack Cunningham said last night. "Investing in their education and skills is the best investment any nation can make."

But Labour would not limit the size of prizes awarded each week to lottery winners despite concerns about the effects of *multi-million* pound payouts. It believes, however, that when Camelot's contract ends in five years' time a "not-for-profit" organisation should, if possible, take over to ensure that all money raised goes back to the people.

If the lottery regulator does not think such a scheme is feasible, or guarantees efficiency, Labour believes he should cap the profits. It says that Camelot should not be able to keep the £6 million interest a year raised from unclaimed prizes and that it should go to good causes instead.

The proposals have emerged from an independent working group set up in February by Dr Cunningham, Shadow Heritage Secretary, to advise him about any changes Labour should make.

Anticipating charges from ministers that Labour would use the lottery as a back door for financing *education while restraining its own* expenditure, the report insists such funds should be "strictly additional to current government expenditure".

While not officially party policy, the report will form the basis for Labour's approach to the lottery. Its membership included a wide range of figures from the churches, the arts, voluntary organisations, pools promoters, bookmakers and many *leisure organisations. At the report's* heart is the plan to set up a new millennium commission when the present one, established to distribute money for events to mark the turn of the century, expires.

This would have a much broader *remit and its "designated permanent good cause"* would be children and young people. The commission would oversee funding on projects to help youngsters to learn new high-tech skills outside school, to give them better all-round play facilities, and to assist one-off teacher training projects, especially in new technology.

It would also have authority to introduce schemes, cash-limited and time-limited, to focus on particular national issues. Under such schemes Labour would back a plan — believed to be the brainchild of Sir David Puttnam, the film producer, who serves on the advisory group — *to introduce a new National Endowment* for Arts, the Humanities and Sciences to support talented young people. Those with exceptional ability not only in sports but in sciences, the arts, and subjects such as mathematics, would get special help *to develop their particular abilities.*

Labour would try to involve the private sector. "It would be our talent fund aimed at boosting excellence — here we might help the Nobel Prize winners of a few years' time," a senior Labour source said *last night.*

Another group proposal is that local organisations should be able to apply to independent community trusts — dubbed "community chests" — for small funding sums rather than to go through the existing national bureaucracy.

But Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said last night that the plan would see local councillors *involved in the distribution of funds.* "A Labour lottery would become a politically correct 'pork barrel'," she said.

Today's report will also contain a warning to the organisers of the Greenwich millennium exhibition to contain the costs, threatening to spiral out of control. It will underline Labour's opposition to an "open-ended commitment" to funding the exhibition dome. Although it backed Greenwich's selection, the party wants to ensure that the *celebration is a truly national event,* and that available funds are shared.

Mrs Bottomley said that Labour was planning, in effect, to nationalise the lottery despite its internationally recognised success.

FVGH
LABOUR LOTTERY BONANZA FOR KIDS

"Son, you're old enough now to know that you shouldn't believe in MPs"

ALBAN DONOHOE

Surprise attack on Prince Harry

PRINCE HARRY is *subjected to a friendly* ambush from Tiggy Legge-Bourke as they left church at Sandringham yesterday.

The royal party had been attending West Newton Parish Church as Sandringham Church is closed for rewiring. Miss Legge-Bourke, who is a personal assistant to the Prince of Wales and looks after the young princes when they are with their father, hugged Prince Harry outside the church and at one point wiped a speck away from under his eye before they walked down the path together. Since last month Miss Legge-Bourke has shared the role of personal assistant with Phyllida Dare.

The party included King Harald of Norway and Queen Sonja, who were among guests being entertained at Sandringham House for the weekend. Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys Jones, *who spent the weekend at nearby Wood* Farmhouse at Wolferton, were also there.

Rush for jabs after death of second student

By Nigel Hawkes
Science editor

HUNDREDS of university students were given emergency vaccinations against meningitis yesterday after an *outbreak of the disease* claimed a second life.

A 19-year-old pharmacy student from the University of Wales in Cardiff died 27 hours after being taken ill. She lived in University Hall, close to a law student, also 19, who died on Thursday night. Neither has been named.

Three other students from the same hall have the disease — confirmed yesterday as Group C meningococcal meningitis — and are being treated at the university hospital. One is seriously ill and in intensive care, while the other two are *making a good recovery in an* isolation ward.

Medical staff brought forward a mass inoculation programme as fear spread through the hall on the outskirts of the city. Vaccines exist *to protect against this form of* meningitis; and students living at the hall have also been given antibiotics to protect against infection.

Dr Bill Smith, Director of Public Health for the Bro Taf Health Authority, yesterday appealed for 100 students who left the campus over the weekend to return. "For whatever reason they went away, they should come back and be inoculated," Dr Smith said.

There was criticism yesterday from some students after it emerged that another student in the same hall had suffered a form of meningitis in mid-October. She recovered, but only her close friends were given protective antibiotics. Doctors believe that there is unlikely to be any connection between this case *and the later ones, because the*

Continued on page 2, col 3

Waldegrave admits direct tax has risen

AN ADMISSION by William Waldegrave, Treasury Chief Secretary, that the average family was now paying about £50 a year more in direct taxes than in 1992, has undermined the Tory claim to be a tax-cutting party, Labour said yesterday.

Mr Waldegrave, asked by Jonathan Dimbleby on LWT whether on income tax the average person was worse off, said: "I think that's broadly right. You have to include National Insurance contributions because we had to put them up in 1994." But he added that the average family was still some £1,000 a year better off than at the last election.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow *Chancellor, seizing on his remarks,* said: "John Major's claim that direct tax is falling has now been confirmed to be untrue by the Treasury."

Claim undermined, page 2

Abbey puts up mortgage rates

Abbey National is raising its mortgage rates for new borrowers by 0.25 per cent, costing a borrower with an average £50,000 variable rate mortgage £1.65 per week.

The estimated £1.64 per week gain to an average family from Budget tax concessions will be wiped out for *most of the 1.6 million with* Abbey mortgages...... Page 48

Tiny Tim dies

Tiny Tim, the singer with the falsetto warble who turned *Tiptoe Through the Tulips* into a 1960s counter-culture classic, has died in America. He was 64. In September he *collapsed after a heart attack* at a Massachusetts ukulele festival.................Pages 3, 23

Tunnel exercise

Eurotunnel staged a mock evacuation of a crowded passenger train deep in the Channel Tunnel 13 days after the fire there, in an attempt to *convince the safety authorities* that scheduled services can resume........................ Page 5

Bequest paints nation into a corner

By Damian Whitworth

ONE of the country's foremost art history scholars wants to bequeath arguably the world's finest collection of 17th-century Italian baroque paintings to the nation. But the offer will be withdrawn if the Government fails to meet his tough criteria on *funding museums and galleries.*

Sir Denis Mahon, who has been a thorn in the side of successive governments over arts policy, proposes to give 61 works worth £25 million to the National Art Collections Fund (NACF) for disposal among the nation's museums and galleries.

However, Sir Denis, 86, will change his will if the Government should at any time fall short of fulfilling what he believes are its commitments to supporting public collections. Furthermore, he plans to instruct the NACF that after his *death it should at once* withdraw any works deposited by him if a museum or gallery concerned should decide to sell off any single item from its permanent collection.

This is designed to stop public collections being pressured by governments to dispose of works of art to raise funds. Sir Denis was instrumental in overturning government plans in the 1950s to get the National Gallery to sell part of its permanent collection.

"I feel passionate that the Government must not persist in its policy of progressively cutting grants to museums and galleries," he said.

The works will be on display at the National Gallery in London in an exhibition entitled *Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection*, from February next year.

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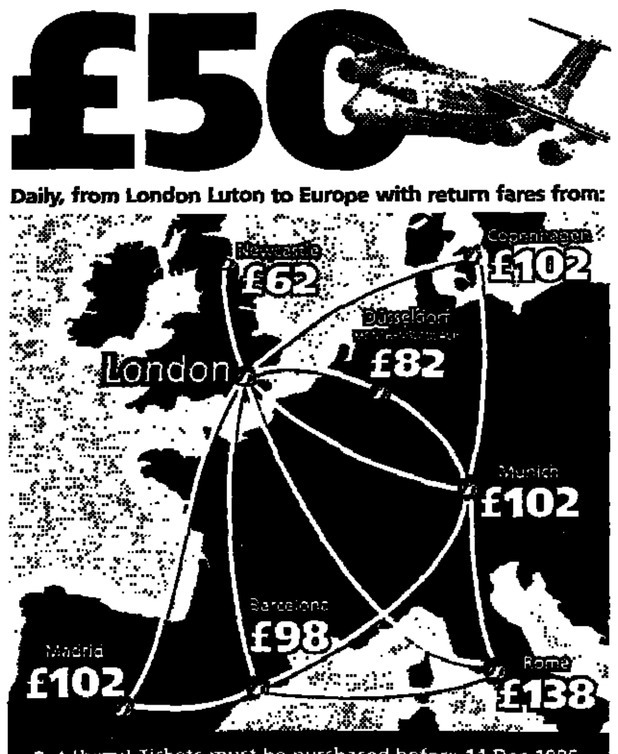

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Labour on attack after Waldegrave's tax admission

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR'S claim that he has observed the Conservative election pledge to cut income tax was undermined yesterday as a Cabinet minister admitted that the average family was paying £50 a year more in direct taxes.

Labour swiftly demanded the withdrawal of the Conservatives' post-Budget advertising which shows the Prime Minister proclaiming "as promised, lower income tax", after William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, confirmed the increased figures. But ministers stressed that voters had more money in their pockets than in 1992 because of steadily rising incomes.

The dispute broke out after it was disclosed that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is looking at plans to cut income tax for middle income earners when Labour publishes its detailed tax plans early next year. Mr Brown, in line with his party's quest of a "fairer" taxation system, is considering proposals which would enable several hundred thousand people to stop paying tax at the higher rate of 40p. He will examine an increase in the threshold because more people than estimated are expected to move into the top rate band next year.

The latest claims and counter claims confirm that Labour is determined to take on the Tories on taxation in the election. Not for the first time Labour was delighted by Mr Waldegrave's frankness in answering a direct question with a direct answer.

Appearing on the *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme on LWT, Mr Waldegrave was asked whether on income tax the average person was now £50 a year worse off than in 1992. He replied: "I think that's broadly right. You have to I think include National Insurance contributions because we had to put them up in 1994."

Figures compiled by the House of Commons library last week show that taxes taken directly from earnings have risen since the last election; this is mainly because of the erosion of allowances, including mortgage tax relief and that for married couples, as well as the National Insurance rise. Mr Waldegrave said that the average family was still £1,100 a year better off than it was at the last election.

But Mr Brown said: "William Waldegrave has finally been forced to admit that the Tories have not been telling the truth about direct taxation. Mr Major's claim that direct tax is falling has now been confirmed to be untrue by the Treasury."

Mr Waldegrave said the Government's first priority was to make cuts in income tax and shift the burden to indirect taxation "because that gives people more freedom to spend". He insisted: "Nobody is worse off." The average family was better off because of low inflation, falling unemployment and rising earnings, he said.

Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Treasury Secretary, said that the burden of taxation had gone up.

Some people were better off, but he insisted that, as a proportion of their income, people were paying more in tax now than in 1979.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told BBC1's *On the Record* programme: "What has actually happened is that people's incomes have gone up very significantly, therefore, on the higher income, they pay rather more tax than they would have done on the lower income."

Peter Riddell, page 20

Trimble voices fear on Blair's Ulster policy

By Bronwen Maddox and Nicholas Watt

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist leader, yesterday voiced fears that Tony Blair is less committed to Northern Ireland than John Major. In an interview with *The Times* in Washington, where he is expected to meet President Clinton tomorrow, Mr Trimble said: "I am not sure that it is a personal priority for Mr Blair in the same way."

The MP for Upper Bann conceded that there was little difference between the two party leaders in their approach to the Province. However, he expressed some concern about Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. Mr Trimble said that she had "made a good impression when she was first appointed [but] latterly there has been some concern, particularly with her view that 'the status quo is not an option'".

Ulster Unionists were encouraged when Mr Blair, who has Protestant relatives in the Province, became Labour leader. Kevin McNamara, who believed in Irish unity by consent, was dropped as Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and replaced by Dr Mowlam, who committed herself to a bipartisan approach.

Since then Ulster Unionists have become concerned that Mr Blair will be preoccupied with affairs closer to Westminster if Labour wins the election. However, there is strong speculation at Westminster that Mr Blair could underline his commitment to Northern Ireland as Prime Minister by appointing a more senior figure to the post of Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. One candidate is Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary.

During his trip to Washington Mr Trimble will press the Clinton Administration and Britain to proceed with the Stormont talks without Sinn Fein.

He said: "As things stand there is no likelihood of Sinn Fein/IRA meeting the necessary conditions to enter the talks. We went into the talks on the basis that if Sinn Fein didn't come in, then talks would go on without them."

Mr Trimble also praised George Mitchell, the former US Senator who is chairing the multiparty talks. His comments came as Senator Mitchell's office denied allegations in a Sunday newspaper that Martha Pope, a senior member of his staff, had developed a close relationship with Gerry Kelly, a senior member of Sinn Fein who is a convicted IRA terrorist. The office said in a statement: "The allegation is totally false. Miss Pope has never met Gerry Kelly."

☐ A hardline republican leader who opposed the IRA ceasefire in 1994 said yesterday that terrorists would continue to bomb Britain until Ireland was united. Ruairi O Bradaigh, a former IRA "chief-of-staff" who is now president of the breakaway Republican Sinn Fein party, rejected the current talks process because he claimed that it would not lead to a British withdrawal from Ireland.

Mr O Bradaigh was speaking in Dublin at the annual conference of Republican Sinn Fein, which split from the main party in 1986. The small party's terrorist wing, the Continuity Army Council of the IRA, has planted a series of bombs in Northern Ireland recently.

Leading article, page 21

Police officers were recovering yesterday after being injured in attacks by loyalists as they protected a Roman Catholic church at Harryville, Ballymena, Co Antrim. A petrol bomb was thrown and a bus set on fire after 500 protesters gathered outside. The weekend protests began three months ago after nationalist objections to Orange Order parades in a neighbouring village.

HUW EVANS

Students at the University of Wales, Cardiff, queue for treatment yesterday.

Two die of meningitis

Continued from page 1

incubation period is ten days. But Rhodri Morgan, Labour's Welsh health spokesman, said he would raise the matter during question time in the House of Commons today. "I am concerned to hear of the earlier outbreak at the same hall and we need to explore the links between the cases which were just five weeks apart," he said.

How the five students affected caught the disease remains a mystery. The bacterium responsible is carried in saliva, but the five involved were not part of a close group.

After the first death, Dr Smith called for the cancellation of discos and parties, warning that intimate contact could risk further spread of the disease. But more than 1,000 students attended a rave at the Great Hall in the Student Union building on Saturday night. English literature student Bethan Jones said: "Everyone was talking about meningitis — nobody knew at that time that a second student had died."

President of the Student Union, Dot Hodge said: "Two deaths in the same hall has traumatised everyone."

Dr Smith appealed for calm, saying that the antibiotic treatment gives instant protection: "But because of the incubation period of this strain it will be 10 days before we know if the worst is over."

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain. Initial symptoms are rather like flu, but meningitis can develop with frightening speed. No vaccine is yet available for Group B meningitis, but there are two vaccines against groups A and C.

Senior judges attack 'full funding' by court users

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR judges have strongly attacked government plans to reap the entire cost of running the civil justice system — including judges' salaries — from fees charged to people who use the courts.

Sir Richard Scott, who as Vice-Chancellor heads the High Court's Chancery Division, told *The Times* the self-financing plans were "lamentable". Judges, he added, had not been consulted, "just told it was government policy".

"The notion that the civil justice system should be paid for by the people who use it is misconceived. It should be available for anyone who needs it, like the police force. When you report a burglary you don't expect to have to pay for the police to come and investigate."

Another senior judge, Lord Justice Saville, a member of the Court of Appeal, said the plans amounted to a revival of a policy scrapped in the 19th century. "It puts the independence of the judiciary in jeopardy if judges' salaries are part and parcel of the money available to run the system. Their remuneration should be quite separate."

It is government policy to move gradually towards using fees charged to court users to cover all running costs. Now the fees charged to litigants total some £232 million — 80 per cent of the total cost.

The clash between senior judges and the Lord Chancellor's Department coincides with a fundamental review of judges' salaries. The Lord Chief Justice is concerned that these are now so removed from earnings of top barristers or solicitors that recruitment could be at risk.

Lord Justice Saville said that at the commercial Bar, the gap had widened hugely. Ten years ago, a High Court judge's salary would be about £50,000 with a top-earning commercial silk getting £300,000. Now silks get up to £1 million a year while, from yesterday, High Court judges are paid £104,415.

Scott renews fight to hold on to seat

Sir Nicholas Scott will tonight "battle hard" to avoid deselection as the Conservative candidate for Kensington and Chelsea when he faces a crucial meeting of local party members. The embattled MP, who last month failed to win a vote of confidence from his association's ruling executive, will throw himself at the mercy of the wider constituency membership.

Last night Sir Nicholas, 63, said: "It is all to play for. I am taking nothing for granted. I shall go in and battle hard." Yesterday he prepared for the meeting and held a coffee morning to thank his supporters.

Gun lobby holds march

More than 1,000 members of the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland marched from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square in London to urge the Government to review its Bill to abolish all handguns apart from single-shot .22 pistols. They were backed by Frank Cooke, Labour MP for Stockton North and pistol captain of the Palace of Westminster Rifle Club, who accused the Government of negligence in drafting the regulations.

Cash-row minister quits

Michael Lowry, the Irish Transport Minister, has resigned amid reports that the Republic's largest supermarket chain, Dunnes Stores, paid his house extension bill of £207,000 three years ago, when he was chairman of Fine Gael and responsible for fund-raising. Mr Lowry, 42, once seen as having prime ministerial potential, insisted he was not guilty of any impropriety, but said that he was going in the interests of the two-year-old coalition government.

£5m ransom for picture

Police and insurance negotiators were trying to arrange the return of a 500-year-old oil painting stolen from the stately home of the Marquess of Bath two years ago and held to ransom by a gang demanding £5 million. Interpol had launched a worldwide hunt for the work, *Rest On The Flight into Egypt*, until officials at Lord Bath's Longleat estate were contacted by the gang. Lord Bath has since held discussions with insurers and police about the claims.

Club bouncer shot dead

A nightclub bouncer was shot dead early yesterday in a revenge killing by a teenager who had earlier been denied admission for refusing to be searched. Murder squad detectives said that the youth got into an argument with the doorman at the Island Nightclub in Ilford, east London, and returned to fire seven shots into the foyer. Christopher Lombard, 26, was killed and a colleague, who was shot in the back, was said to be in a serious condition.

Surfers swept 5 miles out

Two surfers who were rescued after being swept 5½ miles out to sea off Southerndown, South Wales, were described by coastguards yesterday as "very lucky indeed". The two men, aged 25 and 28, who were wearing wetsuits, were only spotted in the darkness by a rescue helicopter thanks to a strobe light one of them was wearing on his arm.

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Firms face flood of claims from disabled people

By Dominic Kennedy, social affairs correspondent

THE most radical law to protect disabled people in Europe takes effect in Britain today. Lawyers are expected to bring a host of claims under the Disability Discrimination Act, enabling the courts to define the exact limits of handicapped people's rights.

Businesses face major new responsibilities to adopt an enlightened approach towards the 6.5 million disabled Britons.

"It will be against the law to discriminate unjustifiably against anyone with a disability either in employment or in the provision of goods and services," said a spokesman for Lewis Silkin, a firm of commercial solicitors. "Businesses who do so face costly industrial tribunal and court battles and hefty compensation claims."

The wording of the Act still leaves major issues unclear. For example, it will remain legal to discriminate against healthy people with the Aids virus. Once they develop the symptoms of Aids, however, they will be classed as "disabled" and have the right to equal treatment with the rest of the population.

Another grey area is mental illness. Technically, an employer cannot discriminate against someone with a history of psychiatric problems, but it is not clear what the position is, for example, if an applicant once had a short-term problem with post-natal depression, which affected her work?

The Act is being enforced in stages but the key measures come into force today. Ministers are worried that many businesses think that by installing a wheelchair ramp, they have fulfilled their duties to the disabled.

The Act applies to councils, hotels, banks, solicitors, pubs, theatres, hairdressers, shops, churches, courts, doctors and estate agents.

"Numerous challenges for employers will be thrown up by the legislation. For exmaple, retailers will be unable to use customer reaction as a reason for refusing to employ a shop assistant with a facial disfigurement," said Lewis Silkin.

"A number of existing business practices may be discriminatory under the Act, including taking absence records into account in making recruitment decisions or selecting for redundancy. Employers should also consider adjustments to working practices where employees are suffering from stress at work."

Businesses recruiting staff will have to consider changes to advertisements, application forms and interviews. Employers must consider more flexible hours, reallocating tasks, adjusting premises and equipment to accommodate disabled workers.

Some disabled groups believe the Act is inadequate and unenforceable, however, relying on vague terms like "substantial", "reasonable" and "normal" whose meaning can only be defined by the courts.

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Two may lose court commendation

Police heroes are criticised for not shooting gunma

By A Staff Reporter

TWO police officers who declined to shoot a man brandishing a gun in the street have been reprimanded for not following their manual which says they should have fired after issuing a warning.

A senior officer was later discovered to have tried to block a police commendation recommended by a judge who praised their courage.

The men, from a police firearms unit, went to the scene with colleagues in Luton, Bedfordshire, after the alarm was raised that a gunman was on the loose. The two found themselves being approached by the gunman but, instead of shooting to stop him, as regulations state, they kept him talking and realised he was suffering from a mental illness.

A police dog handler was nearby and the officers took the decision to allow the animal to be sent in. The man was overpowered and the gun grabbed from him. He was unharmed and it was then discovered the weapon was an air pistol.

When the two men returned for debriefing, they were strongly criticised by senior officers for not shooting the man. Eventually the man was dealt with at Luton Crown Court, where Judge Peter Goldstone said the officers has shown "considerable bravery".

He said they had also acted with considerable gallantry and recommended they each be awarded a commendation.

A decision on whether they receive their commendations is soon expected soon, and the Police Federation has been drawn into the dispute, after the discovery that the commendation might be blocked.

A police source said: "The groundswell of opinion amongst the constables is that these two guys acted extremely bravely and the people in charge have not appreciated what they did. All Hell has broken out over this.

"These blokes used their discretion based on their experience. As they were talking to the man, they made a decision that he wasn't going to fire his weapon. But their governors are saying they were not in the position to make that judgement and they should have shot the man.

"But these people are looking at it in terms of black and white. Whatever the manual says, there are very o areas. The judge pra bravery when the r to caime to court, b officers were not p the court case and did they had been recomr ded for a commendation.

"It seems that a senior officer was trying to cover it up but that's not fair. They should get it. It should be marked against their record because they showed tremendous bravery."

At the court case in August, Judge Goldstone said: "The officers acted with considerable bravery. He is a very fortunate man that they did not protect themselves by shooting which many people would think that they would have been wholly justified in doing.

"The officers, if I may say so, and I would be grateful if you will convey this, acted with very considerable gallantry. The use of the police dog was a very civilised and sensitive way of dealing with the matter."

Officers are trained to shoot at the upper body, effectively to kill. They have no specific procedure to shoot only to wound.

The one-time Herbert Khaury tiptoes through another quirky stage performance

Tiny Tim marries "Miss Vicki" Budinger in 1969

Oddball pop star Tiny Tim is dead

By A Staff Reporter

TINY TIM, the wild-haired singer with the falsetto warble and ukulele who crooned *Tiptoe Through the Tulips* into a 1960s counter-culture classic, has died. He was believed to be 74.

He died at the Hennepin County Medical Centre on Saturday night after apparent cardiac arrest, Ellen Lafans, a nursing supervisor, said. Tiny Tim already suffered from congestive heart failure, diabetes and other problems before he collapsed and fell off the stage on September 28 after a heart attack at a ukulele festival in western Massachusetts.

"If I live 10 years, it's a miracle. Five years, it's even more of a miracle," he said after an 11-day hospital stay that followed the collapse. "I am ready for anything that happens," he said. "Death is never polite, even when we expect it. The only thing I pray for is the strength to go out without complaining."

Born Herbert Khaury, Tiny Tim built an unusual career as an entertainer on his single hit song in 1968, his stratospheric falsetto, an asexual and childlike stage persona and a shy man's uncanny flair for self-promotion. He managed to translate his moment of pop fame into an enduring career of concerts and albums.

He hedged about his age. The Minneapolis hospital listed him as 66. But he never gave up searching for that elusive second hit. "As long as you're recording and they pay the fee, it's like a lottery ticket. You never stop trying."

Obituary, page 23

Cycling body told to sort out it affairs

By Tim Jones

THE Government has told the Sports Council to withhold the British Cycling Federation's grant until it has sorted out its affairs, after an audit referred to internal strife and conflicts of interest on the management board and inadequately structured management accounts.

Members of the federation's executive board passed a vote of no-confidence in its president, Tony Doyle, and asked him to resign a month after he was elected. The repercussions could end in litigation.

Ian Sproat, the Sports Minister, told the Sports Council not to make further payments of the £500,000 which the federation receives annually until it is satisfied the body has put its house in order.

Jon Trickett, Labour MP for Hemsworth, and a member of the Otley cycling club, said the internal audit disclosed concerns about the financial position of the federation, BCF Promotions Ltd, and the Manchester Velodrome. The audit, he said, refers to actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest involving some board members. Speaking in the Commons, he alleged that some members of the federation board were principals of companies that had been supplying it with services.

The report also detailed, he said, a grave state of affairs in relation to the manner in which the federation had been managed. This included inadequate financial accountability and control.Mr Doyle resigned following questions he is said to have asked concerning federation affairs.

Mr Trickett condemns the way the Sports Council passed on the results of the audit to the recent annual general meeting of the federation.

'Sexist' Cooke faces checks on his US freedom

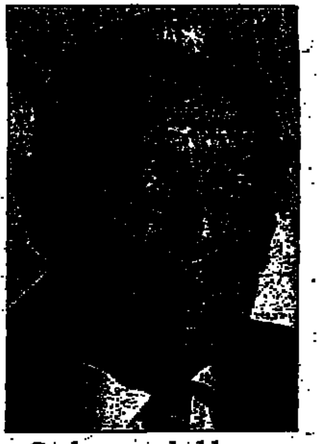
By Bill Frost

ALISTAIR COOKE, BBC Radio's veteran commentator on the American way of life, may be subjected to more stringent editorial control after an allegedly "sexist" broadcast.

Commenting on a survey which disclosed that 4 per cent of women in the US armed forces had been the victim of actual or attempted rape, the 88-year-old journalist said he thought the men "showed remarkable restraint". In his regular *Letter from America* Cooke also expressed surprise that the figure was so low.

BBC presenters said last night that he had "overstepped the mark" and editors should check his copy before it was broadcast. "Because of his age and authority everybody is frightened of him," said one.

"Alistair is an institution but perhaps he has passed his sell-by date; 88 is a ripe old age. The remark was not sexist — more of a facetious aside. But it should have been picked up by an editor because it could be seen as gratuitously offensive." The BBC said it received few complaits about the broadcast but an internal inquiry is underway and Cooke will be asked for an explanation.



Cooke: grand old man of radio faces inquiry

Bel Mooney, the writer and broadcaster, urged BBC editors "to exercise some restraint" on his broadcasts. "He is a man of a certain generation and maybe that sort of remark was acceptable when he was young. Today it is not, and the BBC should check what he writes."

Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said: "He needs a dressing down because this was a very poor show. There is nothing amusing about rape."

Cooke has defended his remarks in typically robust fashion. Critics had distorted his words. "There is unfortunately a minority, and this happened ever since the start of the feminist movement, which sits with gritted teeth, and they don't respond to your talk, but what they think is there," he said.

It is hard to think of a figure further from the edge of political controversy (Quentin Letts writes). Cooke has been writing his *Letter from America* since March 1946. The programmes are not heard in the US, but he is an almost legendary figure, regarded as one of the best-loved "gents" of American broadcasting.

• Until 1971 to 1993 he presented *Masterpiece Theatre* on PBS (the Public Broadcasting System) where his English vowels, delivered from a clubby armchair, created an air of old-fashioned courtesy which made him a byword for graciousness.

Confusion over patron saint spells trouble for parishioners

By Tim Jones

FOR more than 150 years, worshippers have been paying homage to a saint they believe established their parish church.

They have erected a statue of him inside the church and forged links with a German town thought to be associated with him.

Now, a professor has thrown the tiny congregation into turmoil by telling them that instead of worshiping St Disen, they should be praising a man called Denis. Professor Nicholas Orme, a church historian, claims that St Denis's name became muddled because of an old spelling mistake and there is no proof that St Disen existed.

He claims the mistaken name of the church, at Bradninch, near Exeter, was compounded 100 years ago by Dr Charles Croslegh, the then rector, who turned the legend of St Disen establishing the church into fact. According to Dr Closlegh, Disen, believed to be of Irish descent, was making a trip to Germany when he called in at Bradninch and established a church.

But Professor Orme said: "There is no evidence even that such a saint existed, let alone that he was patron saint of Bradninch."

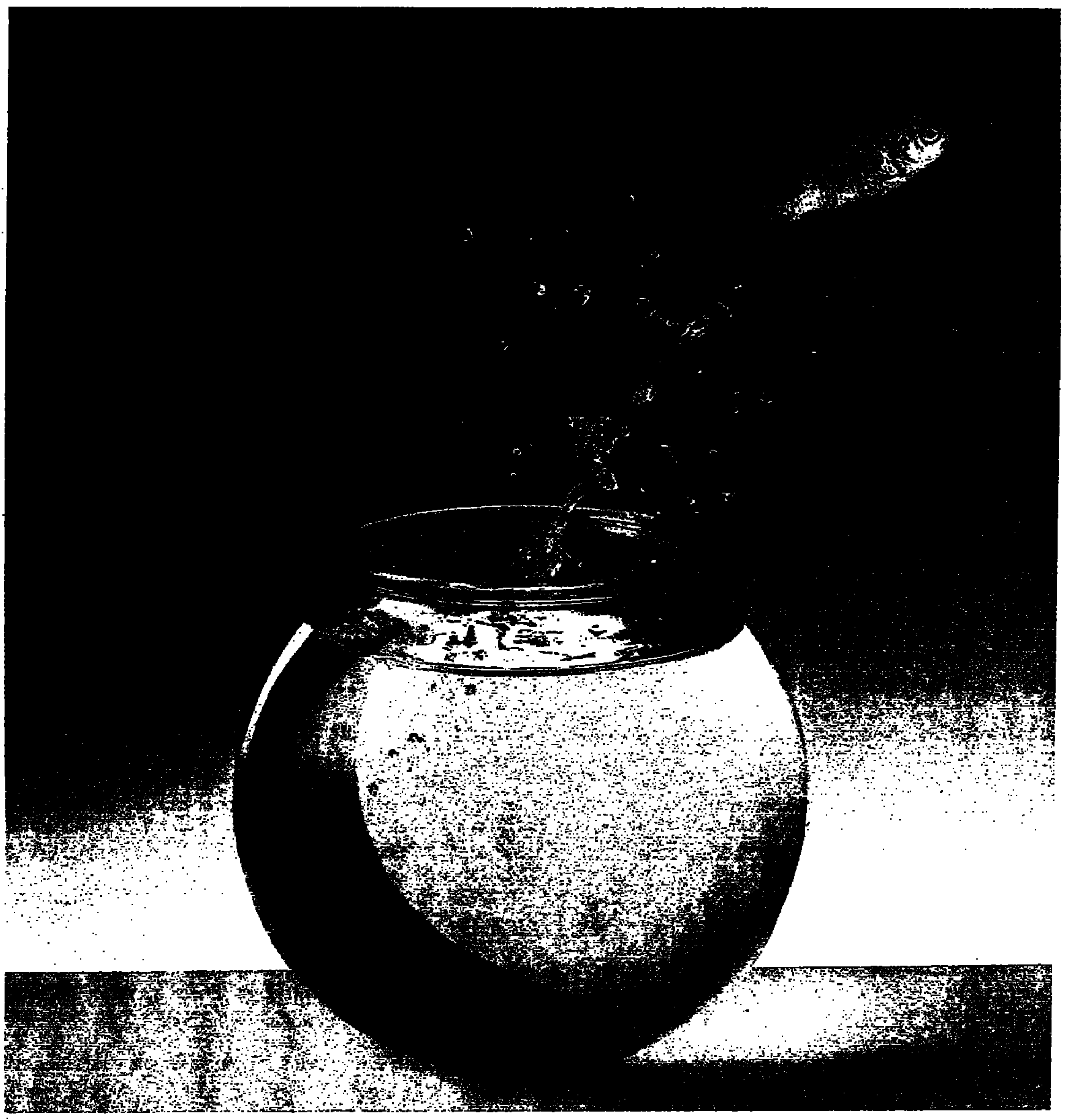
According to Professor Orme, Croslegh was a better cleric than a historian. "He was fairly amateurish in his research. At that period, although the Church was recognising its saints again, there was a feeling that Celtic saints were better than Roman ones.

"I don't say he did it on purpose, he was, after all, a victim of a printing error, but it was easier to get away with mistakes in those days."

Professor Orme's research has failed to impress the present incumbent, the Rev David Robottom. He said: "Many families have been here for generations and for them St Disen is their patron saint, book or no book."

Jim Vallis, a local craftsman who 20 years ago carved a wooden statue of the saint, which now adorns the church, was angry at suggestions the church should become St Denis's. He said: "It's been called St Disen's for ages. It is what people here are used to and it should stay the same for ever."

In his book on the subject, Professor Orme claims than in Devon alone, because of ignorance or error, more than 150 churches have been dedicated to the wrong patron saint.



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Education chiefs call for laws to prevent pupils suing schools

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

IF TWO former pupils succeed in winning damages from "failing" schools for negligence, hundreds more could be sued at a cost of millions of pounds.

Local authority leaders urged ministers yesterday to legislate to prevent further claims being brought, although experts gave the pupils little chance of success. Jack Rabinowicz, a London solicitor specialising in education, is acting for two 17-year-olds who are claiming compensation for poor GCSE results at schools labelled as failing by inspectors.

Mr Rabinowicz, who chairs the Educational Law Association, won £30,000 damages in an out-of-court settlement last month for a 20-year-old man whose south London school failed to stop him being bullied. He refused yesterday to disclose the names of his latest clients or their schools, but confirmed that both have been granted legal aid.

Head teachers and local authority leaders, alarmed at the prospect of insurers again opting to settle out of court to cut costs, said it was essential for the latest cases to be fought "to the bitter end". Millions of pounds could ride on the legal precedent.

Pat Petch, who chairs the National Governors' Council, said the claims of negligence did not have any chance of success. But Alan Parker, education officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the Government should be prepared to act immediately if the teenagers won.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has proposed that case conferences be called, similar to those held by social workers, to decide what to do about violent and disruptive children. It is hoped that this would curb the rise in permanent expulsions from school and that with parents retaining a final right of appeal, confrontations between teachers, parents and governors could be reduced.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education and Employment said the progress of the cases would be monitored but there were no plans for legislation. "For the moment, this is a matter for the schools concerned."

The teenagers, one of whom left school two years ago without any GCSEs while the other was awarded much poorer grades than expected, are both retaking their courses at sixth-form colleges. They are suing for loss of earnings and seeking compensation for the cost of tuition.

Mr Rabinowicz will rely on inspectors' reports showing the two schools concerned to be failing to provide an acceptable standard of education. More than 200 schools have failed so far and 300 more are likely to do so by the time the cycle of inspections has been completed.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers and a former solicitor, said inspectors' reports provided only a snapshot of standards. "It does not mean that the school was in that state throughout a pupil's time there, or that it was the only factor in a pupil's failure. The cases will set alarm bells ringing throughout the system, but the chances of them succeeding must be remote."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "We have been expecting something like this since the law lords ruled that schools could be sued last year. It might be a welcome opportunity to set the record straight, but there must be nothing equivocal about the outcome."

Mr Parker said the Government should legislate in the public interest to protect schools if the actions succeeded. "The public interest is about optimising the overall outcome, not providing a perfect outcome for each individual."

Letters, page 21

How a turkey survives every season but one

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

THE news comes too close to Christmas to make much difference to millions of turkeys, but scientists have discovered why the bird has a bald head and neck. It helps it to survive seasonal extremes.

Researchers had believed that the turkey's lack of plummage and exposed, brightly coloured necks and heads, was a display linked with mating, to lure the opposite sex and see off rivals. A far more practical reason has been discovered by the first scientific study into the subject. The lack of feathers helps the turkeys of north America — from which the Christmas turkey has been bred — to keep cool when the heat is on.

Dr Richard Buchholz, a zoologist at the University of Florida, designed acrylic head socks to simulate the thermal effects of feathers. These were placed over turkeys' heads with holes for eyes and beaks. Four socked turkeys and four unsocked birds were then exposed to a range of temperatures.

At temperatures approaching 35C, the socked birds became increasingly distressed, panting more and getting much hotter thighs. At cold temperatures, the sockless birds simply pulled up feathered skin at the base of their necks and over the exposed areas to keep warm. The researchers believe the finding explains why other species, such as the black vulture, the wood stork and turkey vulture, have lost feathers from parts of their bodies.

Dr Richard Buchholz, whose findings are published in the journal *The Auk*, says: "Loss of neck and head feathering may have allowed these species to take advantage of regions that previously were unexploitable."

The findings, which help to explain the turkey's ability to live across a range of climates, came from tests on the wild turkey, which lives between Canada and southern Mexico. The males are twice as large as the females. It was the breed which William Strickland first brought to Britain in 1526, selling six in Bristol for twopence each.

Ideal when hot or cold: the North American wild turkey

Two-level GCSE is unfair on the losers, say heads

By John O'Leary

CHANGES in GCSE examinations will deprive thousands of pupils of qualifications and destroy the motivation of many more, head teachers said yesterday.

To stretch the brightest, GCSE papers in a growing range of subjects are being offered in two levels of difficulty. Only those taking the harder papers can secure the top grades, which are the passport to a sixth-form place in many schools.

But pupils in this group who fail to reach one of the top five grades are left with nothing because only those entered for the lower tier have access to the bottom three grades.

More than one in ten top tier entrants in some subjects missed the mark this summer. Head teachers and examination boards are calling for reform before English and other popular subjects join the system next year.

Kathleen Tattersall, the Convenor of the Joint Forum for the GCSE, has told the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority there should be a safety net for candidates entered for the more difficult papers.

A dozen subjects, in classics and the social sciences, had tiered papers for the first time this summer. In business studies, the largest entry affected by the change, almost 6 per cent of the 7,866 candidates taking the harder papers were unclassified. There was a sixfold increase in the proportion without grades.

In psychology, which had the next largest entry, the effect was even more dramatic. One pupil in eight taking the higher tier was left without a GCSE pass, and the proportion unclassified was almost 20 times higher then in 1995. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, has written to Nick Tate, the SCAA's Chief Executive, expressing "extreme concern" at the impact of the changes. Carole Whitty, the head teacher of Carisbrooke School on the Isle of Wight, said: "It can limit children's aspirations quite considerably if you put them in for the tier which restricts them to a C or D grade. You are telling them they only have to mark time in that subject. But schools do not want to risk pupils coming out with nothing, so the temptation is to be cautious." The issue will be discussed at a full meeting of the SCAA next month.

☐ A return to more traditional A levels, with harder examinations in some subjects such as English Literature, will be recommended by Government advisers this week.

Labour candidate wins over sacking

By A Staff Reporter

A HISTORY teacher who was sacked when his school discovered he was fighting John Major for his Huntingdon seat as the Labour candidate at the next general election has won a claim for breach of contract.

Jason Reece, 27, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, sued the Jack Hunt grant-maintained school in the town after its head, Bob Coombe, accused him of failing to disclose his political activities which he considered "just excessive".

Mr Reece was appointed head of history at the school in March last year. His political career then took off and as well as winning a seat on Peterborough council, he was selected by Labour to fight the Prime Minister at the election.

Mr Reece, who was awarded a £700 settlement from the school, said he hoped that such "victimisation" would not deter other people from entering politics. He said: "What I do in my own time is my own business. I hope this has established the right of any citizen to stand for Parliament without having to worry whether their employer approves."

Mr Reece said that when he applied for the post his CV stated: "My other interests include contemporary politics." But two months after he was offered the job, the headmaster summoned him. Mr Reece said: "Bob Coombe asked me why I had not mentioned that I was a district council candidate at the interview and asked me about my ambitions. I said there was no reason to mention the election as it had no direct relevance to the job and involved my own free time." However, the job offer was withdrawn.

Mr Reece was backed by the National Union of Teachers in his claim. Mr Coombe said yesterday that he had acted in the interests of his pupils and denied any prejudice against the Labour Party.

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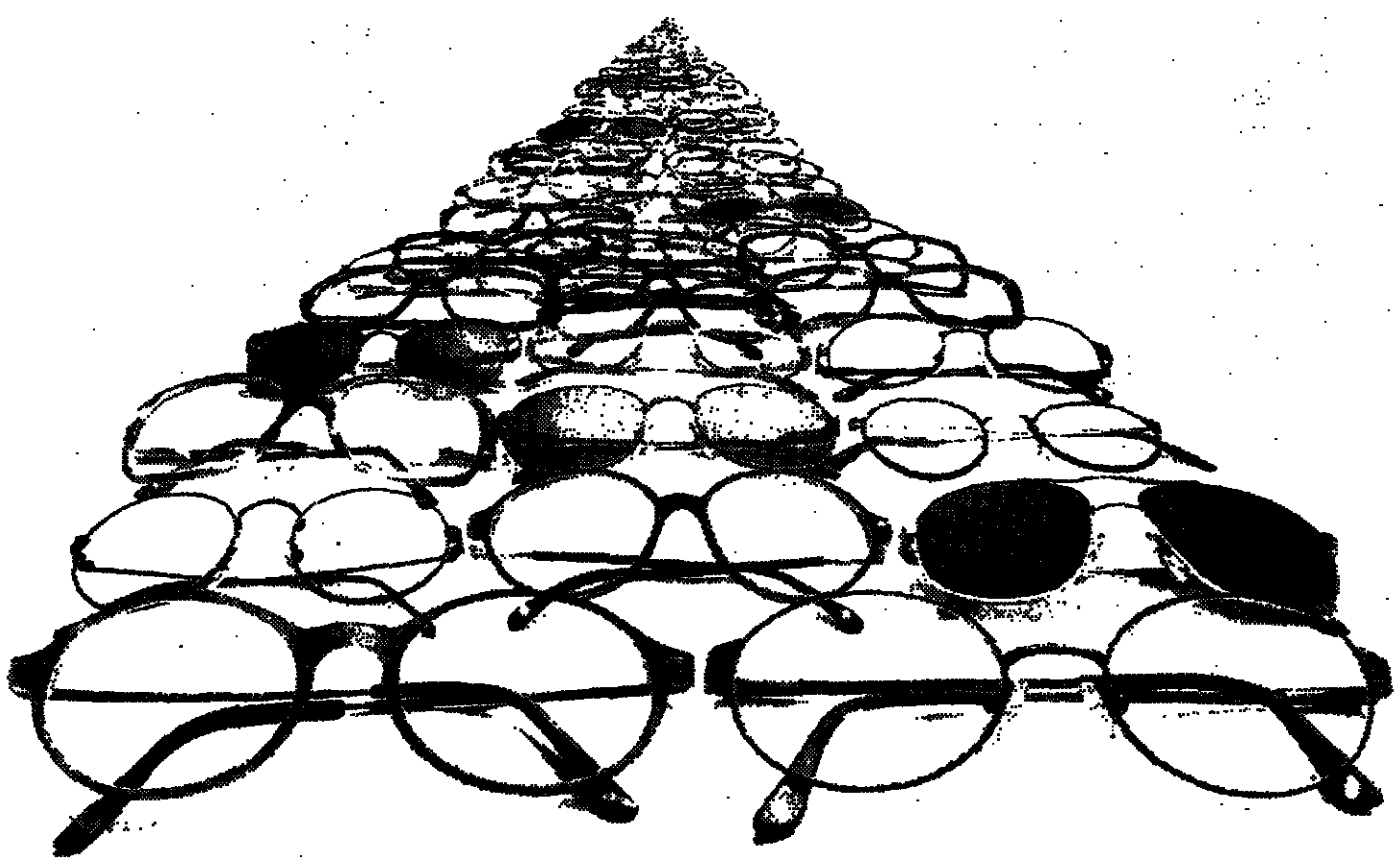

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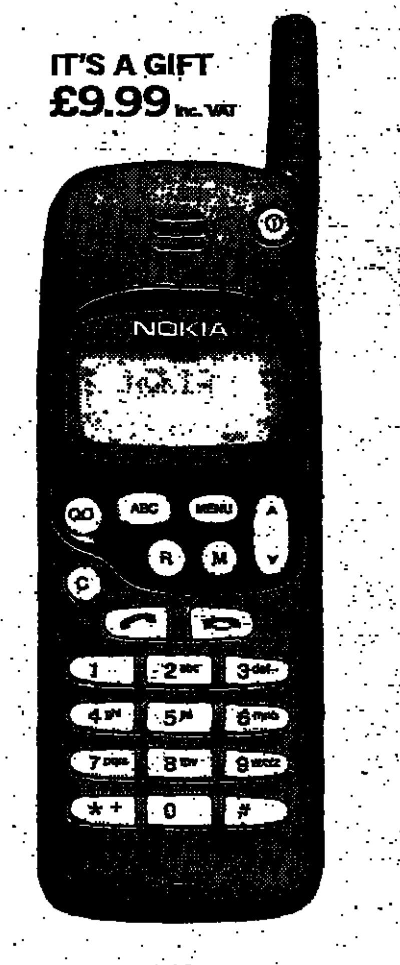

TONY WHITE

Fingers crossed: relatives and friends joined Eurotunnel staff yesterday on board the train in the mock evacuation

Tunnel safety exercise dismissed as worthless

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL yesterday staged a mock evacuation of a crowded passenger train deep in the Channel Tunnel in an attempt to convince the safety authorities that scheduled services can resume.

The exercise, 13 days after the fire that closed the tunnel, was described as worthless by local politicians and safety experts, who accused Eurotunnel of putting profits before passengers' lives.

John Noulton, a Eurotunnel spokesman, said that the company was pleased with the evacuation even though it took five minutes longer than the target of two hours and five minutes to remove all 491 passengers and crew from the tunnel. "It has all gone satisfactorily," he said, adding that people had been removed from the train to the service tunnel that runs between the two main tunnels within minutes. "Once they were in the service tunnel, they were safe."

Members of the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority and the intergovernmental commission which oversees safety in the tunnel were on board the train, as well as observers from the Department of Transport. They will meet today and later in the week to discuss the emergency exercise. The commission is also to conduct a full check of other safety mechanisms.

Eurotunnel hopes that services will begin later this week. Mr Noulton said the company had "broken the back" of the work required by the safety authorities.

However, the British Safety Council said: "We are still very unhappy with the safety of the tunnel. It is far to early to reopen. Eurotunnel are putting profits before safety and shrouding this in far too much secrecy."

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, complained that Kent Fire Brigade had not been involved in the exercise. "I would regard any exercise taking place with the approval of the Kent Fire Brigade and police as satisfactory but any other exercise as meaningless.

"The conditions were wholly unrealistic. The problem with the last fire was the smoke, which caused the overhead cables to collapse and left the tunnel powerless. If the tunnel is reopened too quickly no one will want to travel through it for fear of the same thing happening again."

The train was evacuated near the scene of the blaze

The Eurotunnel spokesman said that Kent and Calais fire officers contracted to the company had helped in the mock evacuation and that there had been no need to involve other emergency workers.

French and British Eurotunnel staff and their families and friends took part in the exercise, which was similar to several conducted before the company received its full operating licence in 1994. The train passed through the undamaged north tunnel until it reached a point opposite the damaged section of the south tunnel, about 12 miles from Calais. The passengers were evacuated and walked about a mile along the service tunnel towards England. They boarded a rescue shuttle on standby at the Folkestone end.

The evacuees included two people in wheelchairs, about ten infirm elderly people and 20 babies and toddlers. The volunteers will receive a free return ticket on a shuttle train or £10 in duty free vouchers if they are Eurotunnel staff.

New drugs 'too costly' for Aids sufferers

By Jeremy Laurance
and Nigel Hawkes

BRITONS infected with the Aids virus are only half as likely to receive treatment that could extend their lives as sufferers abroad.

Ignorance among doctors and reluctance by a hard-pressed NHS to fund more expensive drugs are sending thousands of HIV-infected patients to an early grave. In the United Kingdom 40 per cent of the 20,000 people with HIV known to have consulted a doctor are receiving treatment, compared with 79 per cent of the 94,000 HIV patients in France.

The figures, from the pharmaceutical market research company, Isis Research, also show that a third of HIV patients in the UK refuse antiretroviral therapy compared with only 10 per cent in other countries.

The latest drug trials, reported at a conference in Birmingham earlier last month, show that combinations of drugs which include the new protease inhibitors can have dramatic results. They do not eliminate HIV or cure Aids, but they reduce the amount of virus in the body to below detectable levels.

However, a combination of the established drugs, AZT and 3TC, costs £6,500 a year per year of life saved. If a protease inhibitor were added, it would increase the cost per year of life saved to £10,000.

This compares well with the cost of many established therapies, such as breast screening (£19,000 a year per year of life saved), kidney dialysis (£32,000) and coronary bypass surgery (£73,000). But the cost of treating the whole Aids population of the UK has been worked out at £10.3 million a year for AZT alone, £34.8 million for AZT and ddI, and £50.4 million if a protease inhibitor is added as well.

Michael Binyon, page 17
Leading article, page 21

Outbreak shuts wards to other patients

A HOSPITAL has been closed to all GP-arranged admissions except suspected cases of the *E. coli 0157* food poisoning outbreak. Monklands Hospital in Airdrie is using a third ward to deal with the outbreak. It will be used as an intensive care unit.

Thirty-two 32 adults and a child were being treated yesterday in the hospital, where the Lanarkshire Infectious Diseases Unit is based. The number giving cause for concern rose from ten to 15 over the weekend, and the number showing symptoms rose from 189 to 209.

A hospital spokesman said: "Accident and emergency services are not affected. A number of elective admissions have been postponed."

Dr Martin Donaghy, consultant in public health for the Lanarkshire Health Board, said one extra confirmed case was reported yesterday: "Due to the delay in the serious effects of the bacterium, we must be prepared for more patients giving cause for concern over the next few days."

The outbreak has so far claimed five lives. Across Central Scotland, more than 50 victims are in hospital.

Professor Hugh Pennington, professor of medical microbiology at Aberdeen University, is heading the Government inquiry into the outbreak and said yesterday: "I think probably the outbreak has peaked. There is still the possibility that we may see some secondary cases — there may still be bits of food out there that haven't been spotted."

His investigation will look "in detail" at the decision to withhold for five days the names of outlets supplied by butchers John M Barr & Son of Wishaw, the firm at the centre of the outbreak. Lanarkshire Health Board has released the name of an additional outlet, Shawhead Post Office, Coatbridge, which was supplied with boiled ham and roast beef.

Scrabble champion's word of difference

ANDREW FISHER was unsure if the word "buvette" existed when he tentatively placed the seven tiles on a Scrabble board. But his 74 points for the word meaning refreshment bar helped the 31-year-old accountant to become the 25th national Scrabble champion.

Fisher: refreshed score by 74 points

Mr Fisher, from Glastonbury, Somerset, said: "I had an idea it was to do with drinking but I didn't know what it meant. It was the key to the last game. It gave me the lead and I never lost it."

Thec new champion, a runner-up in the 1991 championship, also scored with oche, bidon, and zig. His opponent, Terry Kirk, a 34-year-old financial data editor, from Finchley, north London, lost the final despite producing the highest scoring word, an 84-point "battered".

Mr Fisher, who plays Scrabble against his computer for an hour each week, and plays in a club every fortnight, said the atmosphere at the three-day competition the Forte Crest Hotel in Regent's Park, central London, was serious and defended the game's image: "In the past it was seen as something played by schoolboys and grannies, but the top players are all relatively young people who are serious about it."

A total of 70 competitors, from as far apart as Edinburgh and Cornwall, took part in the Silver Jubilee championship. The top prize was a trip to America for the world championship.

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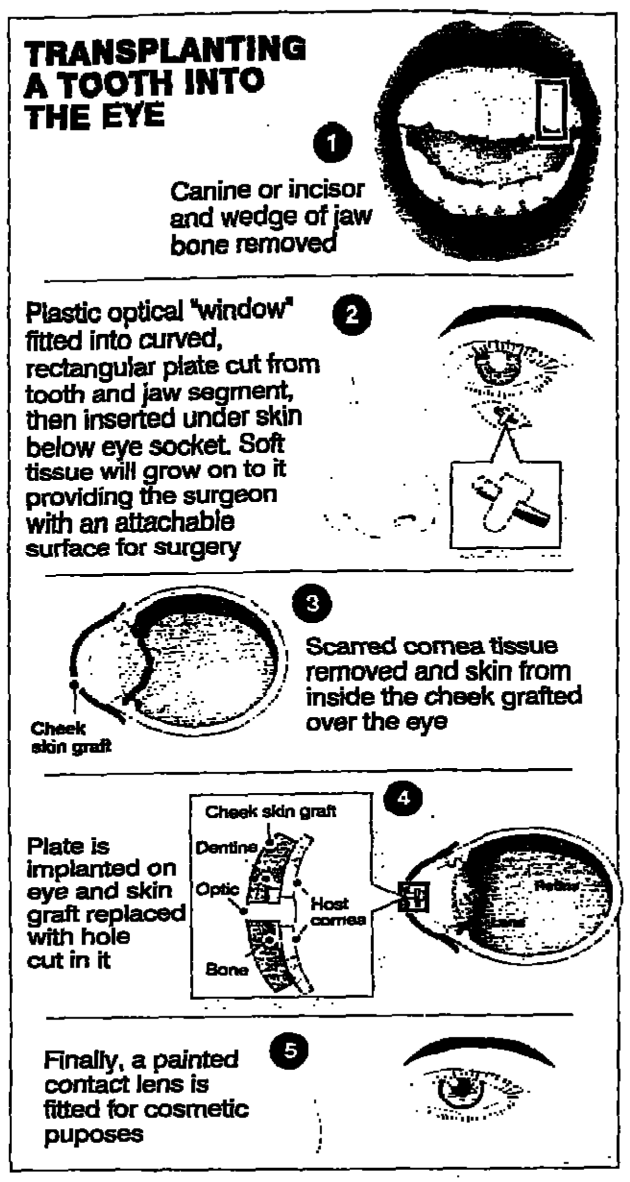
TRANSPLANTING A TOOTH INTO THE EYE
1
Canine or incisor and wedge of jaw bone removed
2
Plastic optical "window" fitted into curved, rectangular plate cut from tooth and jaw segment, then inserted under skin below eye socket. Soft tissue will grow on to it providing the surgeon with an attachable surface for surgery
3
Scarred cornea tissue removed and skin from inside the cheek grafted over the eye
Cheek skin graft
4
Plate is implanted on eye and skin graft replaced with hole cut in it
Cheek skin graft
Dentine
Optic
Host cornea
Bone
Retina
Lens
5
Finally, a painted contact lens is fitted for cosmetic puposes

Surgeon brings revolutionary Italian technique to Britain

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A BLIND man has had a tooth transplanted into his cheek to help to restore his sight. The second stage of the operation in three months' time will move the tooth into the patient's eye and drill a hole in its centre to support a plastic "window" that will replace a damaged cornea.

Bhimji Varsani, 61, from north London, underwent the first stage at Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton, last Wednesday. Details of Mr Varsani's operation, the first time that the technique has been attempted in Britain, were withheld until today.

Christopher Liu, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the hospital, said: "This is a revolutionary technique. An artificial plastic cornea would eventually fall out but it will stay in when surrounded by tooth and bone. That is the magic of it.

"It may seem bizarre but it is necessary. There are other types of material we can use instead of tooth and bone, but they don't work long term." Mr Liu, 36, said that he had been "exhausted but exhilarated" after the eight-hour operation was completed.

He studied the technique in Italy, where it was pioneered by Professor Giancarlo Falcinelli, who travelled to Britain to assist at last week's operation. About 180 patients have undergone the surgery in Italy, with three quarters gaining reasonably good sight.

The procedure, to be shown tonight on *Tomorrow's World* on BBC1, involved removing a tooth and piece of bone from the patient. It was shaped and sanded to provide a rectangular base and drilled to provide a framework for the plastic lens.

The modified tooth was inserted into Mr Varsani's cheek just below his left eye, where it will remain for two months while tissue grows into it. At the same time a small piece of tissue was taken from inside his cheek and grafted over the front of his left eye.

In the second stage, the tooth will be moved into the eye and the tissue that has grown into it used to stitch it in place. A contact lens fitted over the tooth will disguise its appearance.

The operation, which costs £7,000, could help 30 to 50 patients a year in Britain whose eyes have been damaged by injury or disease but are not suitable for human cornea transplants. Mr Varsani, who is married with three adult children and six grandchildren, lost his right eye through smallpox when he was eight.

He contracted trachoma in his good eye two years later but he could see well enough to be a carpenter for 25 years. Then his sight deteriorated so badly that he could no longer work.

Three corneal transplants failed to take and he has been unable to see anything for more than a year. Within hours of the complicated surgery, he was sitting up in bed telling how he looked forward to seeing two of his grandchildren, aged five and two, that live with his son in Canada.

"I am just looking forward to seeing people again — then I'll be very happy. Nobody can guarantee it will work but hopefully it will," Mr Varsani said.

Jim Herold, the consultant maxillofacial surgeon who removed the tooth and piece of jaw bone and shaped it, said that he had suspected an April fool when Mr Liu broached the idea for the surgery. "When Chris first phoned me up about it, I had a good look at the calendar."

Christopher Liu attending to Bhimji Varsani

Mr Liu with his mentor, Professor Falcinelli

Dangers discovered in 'safer' version of painkiller

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

A DRUG company has withdrawn a so-called "safe" version of paracetamol because it carries its own dangers for some patients.

SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical company, says that in normal use paracetamol is risk free and that more harm could be caused if large numbers started taking the "safe" version, which is combined with an antidote.

Last week the Government proposed restrictions on the sale of paracetamol because of concern at the rising number of overdoses. At least 30,000 patients a year are treated in hospital for overdoses which can lead to liver damage. In 1994 there were 115 deaths.

Until last month, SmithKline Beecham sold a version of paracetamol combined with methionine, the antidote used to treat overdoses. Although the drug, called Pameton, has never been promoted, it was available to the general public through pharmacies at £4.88 for 60 tablets.

Last week it was withdrawn from general sale and will in future be available only to individuals or institutions who specifically request it from the company.

Evidence submitted by the company to the Medicines Control Agency which has come to light in the past year shows that methionine may be harmful in pregnancy and may interact with drugs used to treat depression, schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease. Up to 2 per cent of the population who are at risk of familial heart disease have a defect which prevents them metabolising methionine, potentially increasing their risk.

The company says that in institutions where the risk of overdose is high, use of the combined preparation may be justified. But in normal use, the potential risks of methionine should be avoided.

Dr Marion Wellwood, director of medical communications for SmithKline Beecham, said: "We want to make sure it doesn't become a popular substitute for paracetamol. Most people don't need it, so why take the risk?"

In a letter to *The Times* today, Dr Keith Jones, director of the Medicines Control Agency, says that in normal use paracetamol is an effective analgesic with an excellent safety record. "There is no reason why those who presently use paracetamol should switch to an alternative analgesic," he says.

Letters, page 21

Keep off smoggy side of the street

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

MANY busy streets are smoggier on one side than the other, researchers have found. Studies have disclosed that the build-up of hazardous fumes can be up to three times higher on a particular side.

Asthmatics, people with breathing difficulties and heart conditions, and babies in pushchairs can, as a result, suffer levels of pollution that break national and European health limits, but by crossing the street can be in relatively clean air.

The difference reflects wind direction. People are safer downwind than upwind. The research has been carried out by Alan Penn and Ben Croxford, of the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London. Mr Penn said yesterday that he was using the findings to decide the healthiest route when taking his six-year-old daughter to school in Highgate, north London.

Mr Penn, a senior lecturer in architecture, said yesterday that the best way of avoiding high levels of fumes was to walk on the opposite side of the street from where the wind was blowing. If the wind was coming from the south and a pedestrian was walking east-west, he or she should be on the north side.

The school developed cheap pollution-monitors, the size of milk cartons, allowing measurements to be made across and along busy streets. The studies show that wind blowing across the road hits high buildings and streams down, bringing relatively clean air. It bounces back across the street, gathering the traffic fumes, and pushing them onto the other side.

The research, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, came as the Government, at the end of last month, closed the consultation period for its National Air Quality Strategy. The strategy sets health limits for pollutants and requires local authorities to draw up action plans to tackle areas of high pollution. It is hoped that the new monitors used in the research, and which some councils are starting to test, will help to provide a truer picture of where the hot spots are.

Mr Penn said that the current network of air pollution monitoring stations was giving misleading results. Most, like the one near Victoria Station in central London, are set back from busy roads in quiet backwaters. Mr Penn said that outside Victoria station, fumes can be up to ten times higher than is officially claimed.

The monitors are also showing how some streets can, because of traffic management, switch from being relatively clean to fume blackspots. Mr Penn said maps might be developed showing where and when pollution is worst.

Doctors must not turn a deaf ear to noisy riddle

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Tinnitus is a condition in which the patient hears noises, apparently through the ears, when there is no external source of the sound. The noise in the head may be whistling, ringing, hissing or buzzing and it may be intermittent or continuous.

Dr Jonathan Hazell, director of research at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, is reported to have suggested that tinnitus is "all in the mind". This is likely to prove contentious and may offend patients who have found the symptom so distressing that they have had to leave their job or to move house.

The report may have oversimplified Dr Hazell's comments on this complex problem. Tinnitus is an early-warning symptom of many ear which may result from infections of the ear or throat and sometimes malignancy. It is usually associated with hearing loss.

People with normal hearing can experience the distressing effect of tinnitus if they take drugs which are toxic to the auditory nerve, such as some antibiotics. Aspirin and alcohol also cause problems. Ringing in the ears is a frequent sequel to a night of heavy drinking and the noise can be made louder if the sufferer takes aspirin to alleviate a headache.

Tinnitus is also present if the external auditory canal is blocked; a finger in the ear rapidly demonstrates the low-pitch tinnitus associated with obstruction of the earhole.

One of the most common causes of tinnitus is Menière's disease, which incorporates deafness, vertigo and tinnitus. The symptom may be induced by exposure to a very loud noise. In these cases the tinnitus is usually transient but the deafness may remain.

Few doctors would disagree that, although tinnitus is caused by a physical condition, the response of the sufferer can vary enormously. Treating the mood of patients with tinnitus has been standard medical practice for more than 30 years and much can be done to help patients to become reconciled to it.

Tinnitus is of such an importance that it always needs thorough investigation, which should include a specialist ear, nose and throat opinion and appropriate scans of the head and temporal bone. Sometimes when tinnitus stems from diseases in the arteries the sound pulsates in time with the heartbeat. A pulsatile tinnitus therefore requires investigation of the carotid and vertebral arteries.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

GPs under scrutiny for 'fake' drug tests

By Jeremy Laurance

THE first agency to investigate medical fraud in Britain is examining six cases in which doctors are alleged to have faked drug-test results.

The agency, set up four months ago, is also investigating one case of prescription fraud and two of negligence. One of the nine cases is to be heard by the General Medical Council, the doctors disciplinary body, and two others have been referred to it.

Dr Frank Wells, former medical director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, set up Medico-Legal Investigations based at Datchworth, Hertfordshire, with Peter Jay, a former police detective who worked as an investigator for the GMC's solicitors.

Dr Wells said pharmaceutical companies had woken up to the problem of medical fraud and decided to tackle it seriously. A typical case of involved a GP who agrees to undertake research for a drug company which involves recruiting and monitoring volunteer patients. He then finds he cannot cope with the workload, or fails to recruit sufficient volunteers, and rather than lose face or money, fabricates data or invents patients.

"There was no body to which cases of suspected fraud could be referred for investigation," Dr Wells said. "We have unearthed seven since August. I don't believe that is because there is more fraud but because there is a need for an agency for people to bring cases to."

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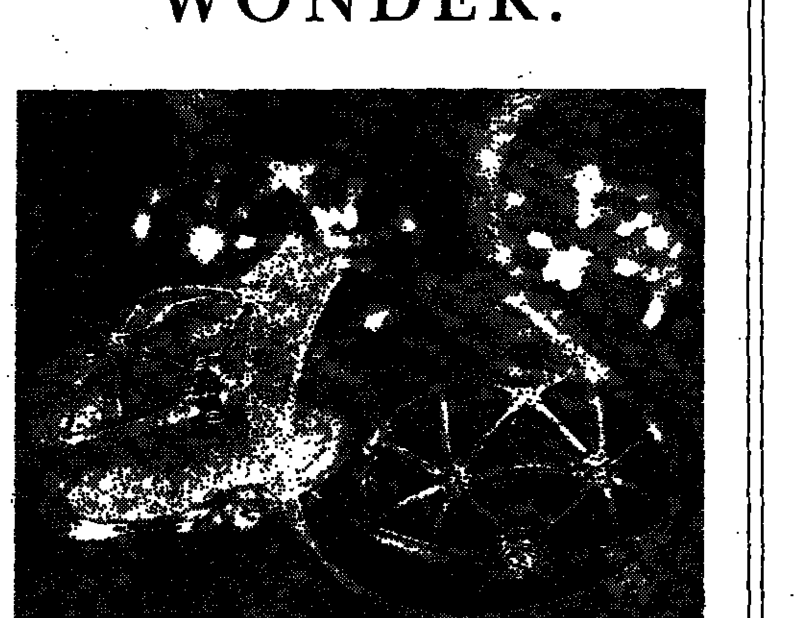

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Millennium will be a Christian event, Bottomley pledges

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

AFTER pressure from the Prince of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Virginia Bottomley has promised that the millennium should be an essentially Christian event.

The National Heritage Secretary, who in the new year will unveil her detailed three-year plan for the countdown to 2000, said yesterday that she has agreed to make spiritual faith an integral part of the celebration.

"I have always been determined that people should be aware of whose millennium it is anyway," she said yesterday. "We shouldn't be ashamed of it being Christian. On the contrary, we want to identify it as a Christian event."

Prince Charles and Dr George Carey have voiced their concerns to Mrs Bottomley in private talks. By Easter, both had publicly expressed worries about the nature of the millennium celebrations. Writing in *Perspectives on Architecture*, the Prince said it risked becoming "a giant but essentially meaningless party".

Mrs Bottomley responded by appointing a committee to co-ordinate millennium events with the churches, but many clergy still had grave doubts. The rejection by the Millennium Commission of a request for £3 million to produce a 13-part television documentary about 2,000 years of Christian history — an eminent project supported by the Bishop of Rochester and the chief librarian of the Vatican — severely eroded confidence.

The millenium theme of "Time" seemed dubiously secular to senior churchmen, and the Commission had been able to find £21 million for a seed bank at Kew Gardens, £11 million for the Rochdale Canal, £5.5 million for Peterborough cycle routes and £4.5 million to clean beaches in County Durham.

The Prince hosted a dinner for church leaders on October 30, including Dr Carey, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, Archbishop Gregorious, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain, and senior representatives of the Roman Catholic and Muslim faiths.

In a letter to one of the guests, the Prince's deputy private secretary at St James's Palace, Stephen Lamport, said: "He was concerned that the millennium projects which were likely to come into being over the next few years would not capture or reflect this inner aspect of the celebration, or provide any means for focusing public attention on the spiritual re-examination and renewal which he feels are a key part of the millennium's significance." There have been suggestions that the Prince was frustrated because he hoped to be given the job of chairing the Millennium Commission, as Prince Albert had inspired the Great Exhibition in 1851. Instead, the job was given to the Heritage Secretary.

The Prince and Dr Carey want other faiths to join what the Archbishop has called "a Christian party to which everyone is welcome".

The chief events of the millennium so far include an exhibition in Greenwich, southeast London, and a giant ferris wheel on the South Bank of the Thames. Much of the money will come from the National Lottery. Mrs Bottomley insists that Britain is far ahead of other countries in its diary of events for 2000.

"I am a Conservative, we are a Christian country, it is a Christian millennium," she said. "Many of the projects the lottery is funding have a church basis. There are grants for church bells and bell towers and church floodlighting.

"When people look at the huge investment in our heritage, our arts and our sporting infrastructure, we will have a thrilling tapestry of provision." She cited the restoration of Portsmouth Harbour and the Earth Centre at Doncaster.

PETER NICHOLLS

Gentle touch: Michael Heseltine preparing for television yesterday. He ruled out a tougher line on the euro

Heseltine damps sceptics' hopes

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE Deputy Prime Minister yesterday tried to quash suggestions that the Government is preparing a tougher line against the single currency in the run-up to the election.

Michael Heseltine angered Euro-sceptics by apparently ruling out a statement by the Prime Minister minimising the chances of Britain going into monetary union in 1999.

John Major is reported to have told friends that he would be prepared to declare publicly that the chances of Britain joining are "very remote". There have been persistent signs that several members of the Cabinet want to reconsider the wait-and-see policy early in the new year.

Yesterday, however, Mr Heseltine appeared to be lining up with Kenneth Clarke to oppose any hardening of the policy when he said that Mr Major had no intention of going beyond the present position.

Asked on BBC1's *On the Record* if Mr Major would rule out entry in 1999, he replied: "No, he won't say that." Mr Heseltine added: "He will not add or detract from the statement that he has very properly made, and is totally consistent with the one thing that will determine the Prime Minister's view — that is the British interest.

"The issue is very, very simple. Discussions are going on about what a single currency regime will look like if it happens. If it happens, one way or the other — in or out — it is of interest to us because we are part of the time zone, we have the City of London and the massive financial interest that represents, so we have to be part of any discussion about what it would look like."

Mr Clarke is to meet European finance ministers in Brussels today to discuss plans to enforce budgetary discipline after the euro is launched in 1999. Mr Heseltine said that Tory backbenchers were wrong to be "nervous" about the meeting. The Treasury said that no decisions would be taken in Brussels ahead of the Commons debate next week.

Willetts to resign if he gets heavy punishment

By Philip Webster

DAVID WILLETTS, the Paymaster General, is expected to resign from the Government if Parliament's most senior committee decides he has been guilty of a serious misdemeanour and recommends a tough punishment.

The minister, under investigation for a memo he wrote when a whip two years ago over the Neil Hamilton affair, has told close friends that he would not feel able to carry on if the Commons standards and privileges committee was to propose a severe penalty, such as a brief suspension as an MP.

Senior Conservatives are voicing doubts over whether the committee, which meets again today, will go so far as to recommend a suspension. At issue is the claim that in 1994 he tried to persuade the chairman into "exploiting the good Tory majority" to rush through an inquiry into Mr Hamilton or to put it on the back-burner.

In spite of the fierce attack in the committee on Mr Willetts by one of his colleagues, Quentin Davies, Tory MPs are hoping it will find that Mr Willetts was guilty of foolishness and exaggerating his role rather than suggest that he offended against Parliament. Mr Davies will have the crucial vote.

Labour MPs who signed Blair attack escape penalties

Simpson: distanced himself from SWP

By James Landale
Political Reporter

THREE Labour MPs who signed a left-wing petition critical of Tony Blair seem likely to escape punishment from the party whips.

Alan Simpson, Jeremy Corbyn and Eddie Loyden put their names to a petition organised by the Socialist Workers Party that attacked Labour frontbenchers and condemned any attempt to weaken Labour's links with the trade unions.

So far, the petition has been signed by some 15,000 Labour party members and officials, trade unionists, and members of socialist groups. Despite claims that the three MPs, all members of the left-wing Campaign Group, could fall foul of a planned tough disciplinary code for Labour MPs, party sources yesterday made clear that no investigation would be carried out. "We do not regard this as a disciplinary matter," one source said.

A Labour spokesman said that it was uncertain whether the MPs knew they were signing a petition organised by the SWP. "What they signed is a matter for them," he said. "They must justify their own actions."

Mr Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, said he had signed many petitions in support of maintaining the link been the party and the unions, and had been unaware that this particular one had been organised by the SWP. He said he abhorred the "sectarian" politics of the SWP and had written to them distancing himself from their campaign.

Mr Corbyn, MP for Islington North, confirmed that he had signed a petition during the Labour party conference at Blackpool in October, but said that he had not been aware it was from the SWP.

He added: "I think people should look at the merits of the issue, which is defending the rights of people who belong to trades unions and the removal of the incredible restrictions that are imposed on unions in this country."

Mr Loyden, MP for Liverpool Garston, said that he could not remember signing the petition. Labour's new disciplinary code, to be discussed by its MPs this week, would ban them from doing anything which brought the party into disrepute. The code is unlikely to cover the three MPs' action and would not operate retrospectively.

The petition voices anger at "recent statements from Labour Party leaders which suggest a Labour government will continue many Tory policies".

It says: "We protest at statements by David Blunkett and Tony Blair suggesting that Labour will not only keep the present anti-union laws but may make them tougher." It also criticises Stephen Byers, the Shadow Employment Minister, for suggesting that Labour could sever its links with the unions, and protests at Mr Blair's support for a statement by Kim Howells, the Shadow Industry Minister, saying that Labour could abandon any use of the word socialism.

The petition, to be published shortly in the left-wing newspapers *Tribune*, *New Statesmen and Society*, *Socialist Worker* and *Morning Star*, will be presented to Mr Blair in the new year. A SWP spokesman said that the Labour party could not ignore the 15,000 signatories to the petition. "They are people who have held the Labour movement together over the last 15 years and feel very disillusioned with the way things are going," he said.

Small firms replenish Tory funds

SMALL private companies are beginning to replace larger firms as the chief corporate donors to the Tory party (James Landale writes).

Analysis of 5,000 company reports by *Labour Research*, a magazine independent of the Labour Party, shows that the number of identifiable large corporate donors has dropped to 133 in the past financial year from 194 a year earlier.

But in the past five years, the proportion of donations from small companies has risen from 23 per cent to 37 per cent. The bulk of donations, totalling £19 million last year, comes from rich individuals.

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Charter winners make their mark in record number

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

A RECORD 323 organisations will today receive Charter Mark awards for their standards of public service. Winners include schools, hospitals, police forces and benefit offices.

However, for the first time, a prominent public body has lost its gold-medal rating. The judges decided that it would be unacceptable for the War Pensions Agency to retain its Charter Mark after a new computer system led to a backlog of claims and thousands of complaints.

Awards are being made to nine privatised water and electricity companies, although only two — Midlands Electricity and Wessex Water — were nominated by customers. Their selection drew attacks last night from Labour critics. They were particularly infuriated by awards to Norweb, now part of United Utilities, which faced a shareholder revolt over executive pay, and Severn Trent Water, which has been criticised for its pollution record.

The others are Anglian Water, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Manweb, Northern Electric and Scottish Power. Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said that winners had to demonstrate excellence in nine criteria, including user satisfaction, to a panel of independent judges. Directors' pay was not one of their considerations.

"Charter Mark is now established as the award for excellent public services," he said. "I would like to congratulate all those working in the winning services. They are dedicated people who have gone the extra half and deserve the recognition."

Local authorities won 109 Charter Marks. They include: Birmingham City Council, "wasp buster" unit; Broxbourne Borough Council, Hertfordshire, sends old people birthday cards to advise of allowance changes; East Herts District Council, compost collection; Brent Libraries, north London, open 73 hours a week, all day Sunday; Westminster City Council, 24-hour anti-noise team.

The scheme is open to any service dealing directly with the public which controls its own budget. A total of 737 applied. The winners receive a £70 crystal award and certificate from Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Five organisations lost their Charter Mark: Goodwood Court surgery in Hove, Sussex; Hounslow Council care and repair service; Waltham Forest Council advice and information service; Merthyr Tydfil consumer advice service; and the War Pensions Agency, based at Norcross, near Blackpool. The agency, which handles about 140,000 claims a year from former servicemen and women or their families, was held to have failed because of the level of criticism and because it did not handle complaints properly.

Some of the agency's sternest critics sympathised with staff. Terry English, controller of welfare for the Royal British Legion, said: "Staff do their very best but there are not enough people to cope with the work. There are also serious delays with appeals." Kevin Caldwell, the agency's chief executive, said that it was tackling the problems.

An award for high standards in education facilities is being made to Holme House Prison, Stockton-on-Tees, which pioneered literacy classes where inmates learn with their families. Almost a third of the 750 inmates are taking courses taught by local college staff and up to six a week have personal tuition in the visiting room with their partners and young children.

Charter Marks, pages 39-41

Reading with father: award-winning Holme House Prison, Stockton-on-Tees, allows inmates to be joined by their children for afternoon literacy classes

Airport silences some critics with anti-noise efforts

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

COMPLAINTS about aircraft noise at Heathrow have plummeted despite a sharp rise in the number of flights from the world's busiest international airport. But they have climbed at Gatwick, where BA has introduced hundreds of additional flights.

Figures to be released next week will show that in the three months to September there were 56,646 flights at Heathrow, up 6 per cent on last year. The number of noise complaints was 1,254 compared with 1,670 in the same period last year.

The latest figures for Gatwick show a 43 per cent year-on-year rise in complaints. The number of night flights there has gone up by 70 per cent, according to local groups.

BAA, the airports authority, is to introduce tighter noise limits at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted next month with fines of up to £1,000 for aircraft which exceed the limits. BAA also charges older, noisier jets 30 per cent more to land at Heathrow which, it says, has led to a sharp drop in their number. "The measures we are taking to improve the noise environment, together with the airline industry's gradual introduction of quieter aircraft and the work which has gone on at Heathrow visitor centre to monitor and explain why there is a noise problem, appear to be working," a Heathrow spokesman said. "We will continue to work hard to bring about further improvements."

Residents and environmental groups said that the reduction was a short-term blip. BAA's noise-monitoring unit admitted that the 1995 figures had been exaggerated by several weeks of concentrated use of one runway instead of the normal alternating of take-off routes.

Dermot Cox, of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, said: "These figures fluctuate from time to time and we know that there is a general worsening of the noise problem in a vast and widening area around Heathrow."

Drivers admit 50 blunders a week

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE average British motorist is careless, aggressive and makes about 50 serious mistakes a week, according to a survey of driving habits.

The study of 300 drivers, including 50 who kept detailed diaries of all their car journeys, found they made an average of 2.6 errors which could cause an accident on all their 19 trips a week. Young drivers were the worst, confessing to 72 mistakes weekly, while older ones said they committed only 28.

Overall, they admitted being careless at least once on 98 per cent of their journeys and drove badly, for example by misjudging corners, on 83 per cent. They were prey to "road rage" on 13 per cent of trips and feelings of anger or recklessness at least once every other journey. The single most common risk taken was speeding, admitted on 37 per cent of journeys and a factor in 22 per cent of crashes.

More than half the motorists said they had had an accident, with 60 per cent blaming the other driver and 20 per cent accepting the blame themselves. Only 4 per cent said their crashes were genuine accidents with no human error involved. The others shared the blame or blamed a third party.

Gary Lubner, the managing director of Autoglass, which commissioned the survey, said he was so shocked by its findings that they had been passed on to the Department of Transport. He said: "Drivers don't have accidents — they cause crashes."

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About 75%* of the 268,921** seals killed in Canada last spring were seal pups, just days or weeks old. Many of them were "whitecoat" or "blueback" baby seals whose pelts are valued in the fur trade. The EU has banned the importation of these pelts, but now the International fur dealers are working behind the scenes to have this ban lifted. MP's and EuroMP's are already resisting this pressure, now we need your help.

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*Source: DFO, 1996 Seal Quota Report - Newfoundland Region Catches, May 31, 1996
**Source: DFO, "Seal Report", Licenses and Seals harvested to date, Canada, May 31, 1996.

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Serb leader faces growing dissent

Ministry tries to quell protests against Milosevic

By Dessa Trevisan and Our Foreign Staff

AS UP to 100,000 demonstrators demanding the resignation of President Milosevic took to the streets of Belgrade yesterday. Serbia's Interior Ministry warned that it would no longer tolerate "any element of violence".

The warning came as Zoran Djindjic, one of the principal opposition leaders, threatened to spread the protests to other Serbian cities, and MPs hostile to President Milosevic said they would resign their seats when Parliament meets tomorrow.

The state television centre and the Milosevic-controlled newspaper *Politika* have been stoned during the demonstrations. Protesters have accused provocateurs of launching the attacks.

Mr Djindjic told an independent radio station in Nis, Serbia's second city: "We have decided to broaden the protests to another six or seven towns. The network of protest and civil disobedience is taking hold ... This is a test of legality, we are defending the principle of respecting the law."

Belgrade, the capital, has long been an opposition stronghold. Nis, however, has been loyal to Milosevic.

Although the Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition is now talking of launching strikes, students and intellectuals have so far been the backbone of the protest movement.

"We won't live under the same regime as our parents did," Mihajlo Jakcevic, 21, a medical student said. "They might not have wanted to live under Communism, but had no choice. We are determined to choose."

"Their place is in history, where all other Communists have gone already," added Danica Bozicevic, a 19-year-old law student. The protests were sparked by massive fraud in recent municipal elections before turning into a campaign for Mr Milosevic's resignation.

In the war of nerves, Vuk Draskovic, the other key opposition leader, is calling on the Serbs to follow the example of Prague demonstrators who forced the Communists out in 1989 after 47 days of peaceful demonstrations.

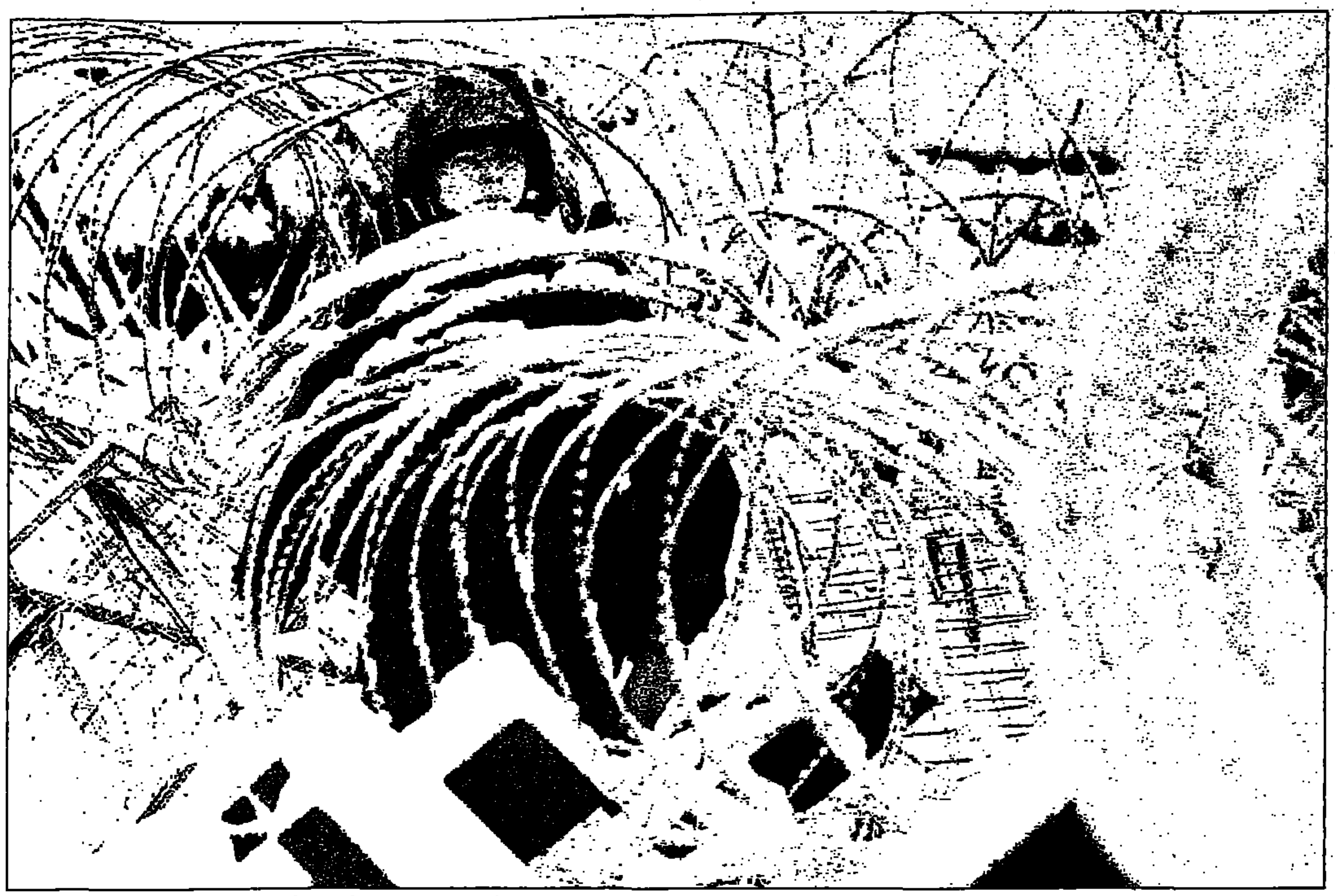
Whatever their differences, the two opposition leaders are united by their determination to destroy Mr Milosevic's credibility abroad as well as forcing recognition of opposition victories in the elections. The opposition alliance has so far demonstrated what for Serbia is remarkable unity. But underneath there are personal vanities and animosities, old scores and political differences.

In fact, the two leaders could not be more different. Mr Djindjic, the unemotional leader of the Democratic Party, has often tended to discard principles for the sake of expediency, of playing up to nationalists or even to Radovan Karadzic's Bosnian Serbs.

Mr Draskovic, however, who abandoned nationalist rhetoric before former Yugoslavia plunged into war, stood firm and as a result lost many of his earlier supporters.

In Pale, seat of the Bosnian Serb "parliament", he was regarded as a Serb who had betrayed the Serbian cause. Both men are committed to the Dayton accords that underpin the Bosnian peace process. While Mr Draskovic remains a romantic who is often carried away by emotion, Mr Djindjic is a cool-headed politician.

He showed his ruthlessness in 1993 when he ousted his mentor, Dragoljub Micunovic, the man who founded the Democratic Party. They split when Mr Djindjic made a U-turn to embrace Serb nationalism and struck up a close relationship with Dr Karadzic.



A French soldier with Nato forces in Bosnia guards his post in the centre of Sarajevo yesterday. The Ifor troops are to stay until mid-1998

Loyal partner gets cold feet at prospect of fiscal marriage

Karl Weik, an American who studied the way big companies and institutions behave, liked to say that "organisations act in order to discover what they are doing". Remember Mr Weik's insight as you watch Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl trying to work out what they are doing together in their three encounters over the next fortnight.

When the French political establishment signed up so blithely for a European single currency that would bring them leverage over the Bundesbank, they had no idea they were buying tickets on a voyage of discovery. Over the past five years, events have uncovered all sorts of unwelcome truths about monetary union.

In national politics, voters digest, accept or reject new ideas fairly fast. European Union politics work sluggishly: the system is hybrid, part federal, part inter-governmental. With 15 states, 12 languages, 380 million people and decision-making encoded in robotic jargon, the impact of treaty changes and Euro-laws dawns slowly. Although the French Government signed Maastricht years ago, the roof-raising, no-holds-barred single currency dispute has only just erupted.

Confidence in the euro is draining out of French politicians like sawdust from a scarecrow. With unemployment at 12.6 per cent and rising, growth stuttering and an election due in 15 months, ministers are backed against the wall. Even Jacques Delors, the retired architect of this dream fast becoming a nightmare, has been waffling about how monetary union cannot work unless the EU agrees a "growth pact".

Translated into English, that means either that the single currency rules have to be bent or the franc devalued.

Last week, Herr Kohl replied. "All proposals going in the direction of relaxing the criteria [for EMU] or of a devaluation at the heart of the European monetary system would be damaging to the common cause," he rumbled in *Nouvel Observateur*.

He added the ringing statement that "being deeply convinced that there is no responsible alternative to a united Europe, Germany and France will remain the promoters of the process of European unification".

The German Chancellor passed up the opportunity to contradict the severe drumbeat of bankers' warnings from Frankfurt. Price stability rules, says Hans Tietmeyer of the Bundesbank. Low deficits are for ever, says Alexandre Lamfalussy of the embryonic European central bank. Monetary union means that its member states will be joined "heart and soul", says the Bundesbank's Otmar Issing.

The German establishment's message to its opposite numbers in France amounts to: "You really want a say in our monetary policy? So let our countries get married."

France hesitates at the altar. Once upon a time, its leaders believed that monetary union could happen without the French nation being upset and without their state being usurped. Now that the way European monetary union will work in practice is clearer, no one can explain how French traditional autonomy is compatible with the rules of the new game.

Iron-clad "stability pacts" inside an EU hard core make President Chirac's proudly patriotic oration last week on André Malraux sound a touch hollow. Nobody says it out loud in Paris, but monetary union means a less French France.

No one, least of all M Chirac or Alain Juppé, his punch-drunk Prime Minister, sees a way out. France has seen off gleeful British predictions of Paris-Bonn crises before and the alliance across the Rhine has always muddled through.

The problem does not go away, however. The scholar Emmanuel Todd summed up the dilemma with pithy cruelty: "If they give up the single currency, they get burnt because people have already suffered too much for its sake. If they do it, they'll be incinerated for exactly the same reasons."

George Brock

Moldovan election 'rigged'

From Reuter in Kishinev

PRESIDENT SNEGUR was yesterday accused of trying to rig the ballot as Moldovans voted in the second round of their first multi-candidate presidential election.

"People have been paid to vote. Other inventions to falsify the results are being used." Petru Lucinschi, the left-wing challenger, said. Mr Snegur, President of the former Soviet republic since independence in 1991, accused his opponent of dirty tricks, however. Polls showed the two running neck-and-neck after Mr Lucinschi won 28 per cent of the vote in the first round last month.

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French drivers' victory set to spark fresh wage unrest

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRANCE'S road system slowly returned to life at the weekend as lorry drivers congratulated themselves on a hugely successful strike and the country began a grim assessment of the political and economic damage caused by a 12-day strike likely to provoke similar unrest in other sectors.

"Is this victory contagious?" wondered *Le Journal du Dimanche* yesterday beneath a headline declaring "Lorry Drivers — Now the Bill."

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, proclaimed that a "balanced outcome" had been achieved, but the dispute has been more widely seen as an embarrassing rout, in which the drivers paralysed the country and won all they wanted from an enfeebled Government desperate to avoid further disruption.

The list of concessions — retirement at 55, payment for loading and resting equivalent to a 10 per cent wage rise and a £400 one-off pay bonus — has prompted envious noises from other workers. The strike enjoyed wide public support, but it has set into stark relief the weakness of a Government forced to dig deep into the public purse and use its decree powers to end an illegal blockade of roads, ports and fuel depots.

Last year, when faced with a crippling 24-day transport strike, M Juppé climbed down over efforts to scale back ludicrously generous pension benefits for state-employed rail workers. This year he has gone further, using taxpayers' money to buy off disgruntled private-sector workers.

The Government has repeatedly called for looser market regulation, a scaling back of the welfare system and cost-cutting to ensure France meets the deficit-reduction rules for European monetary union. When the French drivers slammed on the brakes, however, it took just 12 days before the Government came up with new social benefits, fresh regulation and a large cheque.

"It is always the same: a group of workers with the power to blackmail takes the country hostage and forces the state, which can ill-afford it, to step in and hand them victory," lamented Franz-Olivier Giesbert, Editor of the conservative *Le Figaro*. The lorry drivers' strike perfectly illustrated "the French sickness", he observed.

Commentators on the Left have also wondered at M Juppé's willingness to buy off a special interest group. Serge July of *Libération* said the Prime Minister was setting a "bad example by interfering in the private sector, offering concessions and making exceptions which will legitimise other demands in other areas". Workers at France's oil refineries have called for a strike next week to demand, among other concessions, retirement at 55. The state-run gas and electricity utilities will mount a 24-hour strike tomorrow.

Before the drivers' dispute, the volume of social protest this year appeared muted and the level of turnout during a "day of action" last month was low. However, the events of last week have changed the political landscape.

The hardline CGT union called the drivers' blockade a "formidable encouragement to all wage-earners" and called for "a powerful social movement uniting unions across the country".

M Juppé may find he has bought an expensive peace in one battle, only to start a war.

☐ Agen: M Juppé called on the Gaullists to stop sniping and unite behind him as the party celebrated its twentieth anniversary. M Juppé, the president of the Gaullist RPR, founded by President Chirac as political heir to postwar leader General de Gaulle, urged the party to back his austerity reforms to bring France into the European single currency in 1999.

Philippe Séguin, his Gaullist rival for the leadership, addressed a separate rally. He said: "Anniversaries are intended not only for memories. They are there to blaze a trail. *(Reuter)*

EMU provokes festive protest

Bonn: European economic and monetary union caught up with Christmas yesterday when more than 100 Father Christmases and a handful of angels marched through Berlin to protest against government spending cuts (Roger Boyes writes).

The Father Christmases are threatening to go on strike. In another blow to children yesterday sweet industry talks over sick pay collapsed. Confectionary workers are threatening to paralyse 11 chocolate and biscuit factories.

MASSIMO SAMBUCETTI/AP

The Pope presides over the first vespers of Advent, the start of the church year, in St Peter's on Saturday when he called for greater unity between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Pope looks to millennium

He also formally opened three years of celebrations leading up to 2000 — the start of the third Christian millennium — which he has declared a holy year, saying he would be there "at God's pleasure".

"The millennia belong to Christ, especially the two which mark his coming to the world and whose anniversary we shall celebrate," said the Pope, 76, who looked tired but in relatively good health after last month's surgery to remove his appendix.

He said Christians should spend the last three years of the century preparing themselves spiritually for the new millennium and he called on humanity to show a stronger social conscience and more brotherly love.

The Pope has made Christian unity a primary goal of the run-up to 2000 and on Saturday he sent a letter to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. In it he hoped that Christians could arrive at 2000 "if not united, at least closer to resolving the divisions of the second millennium". *(Reuter)*

Deficit dispute tests strained Paris-Bonn axis

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

TENSIONS between France and Germany over the proposed single currency will be on display in Brussels today when European finance ministers try to settle a dispute over rules for fining countries that run up excessive budget deficits.

Although Tory Eurosceptics have dramatised the ministerial gathering as a showdown for Britain, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is under little pressure since his stance on the so-called stability pact is shared with France and the majority of member states.

Ranged against them are Germany and The Netherlands, who are holding out for tough rules to punish governments that threaten the future euro by spending beyond their means.

To the anger of its anti-Maastricht critics, the Government backs the principle behind the stability pact, calling it necessary to ensure the future economic health of Europe whether Britain joins the single currency or not. It insists that the British opt-out from economic and monetary union (EMU) will fully exempt Britain from the pact if it decides against joining.

Mr Clarke has promised to seek further guarantees from his European colleagues and will place a "scrutiny reserve" on any decision today, pending next week's debate in parliament and the Dublin European Union summit in ten days. He also rejects claims that Britain could be subject to diktats from Brussels under a procedure, being discussed today, that will strengthen the EU's surveillance of all members' economies.

Mr Clarke and EU officials note that the only sanction under the "reinforced" scheme would be a public rebuke from Brussels. This would come about only if Britain ran a recklessly inflationary budget.

Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that it was pointless to promise guarantees before the stability pact had been settled. Diplomats do not expect Germany to give much ground today in the quarrel over the fine print of the stability pact, a dispute which is adding to fresh French resentment towards Bonn over the painful costs of preparing for EMU.

The heart of the dispute involves the definition of the "temporary and exceptional" circumstances under which badly-performing governments will be let off penalties. These fines, which can be given back to the offending state if it returns quickly to virtue, are to be fixed at a maximum of 0.5 per cent of GDP.

Britain, France and their partners want to leave maximum discretion to the political leadership, but Germany wants penalties to kick in automatically for delinquent governments unless they are suffering from a recession of an annual 2 per cent of gross national product or worse.

The latest bout of jitters has been sharpened by the lorry drivers' strike and by a call from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President and co-founder of the monetary system, for the franc to be devalued as a way of rescuing the country from its crippling level of unemployment.

President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sought to smooth over differences at a dinner in Périgueux on Saturday night and the two are due to meet tomorrow to coordinate their approach to the Dublin summit.

Clarke: rejects claims

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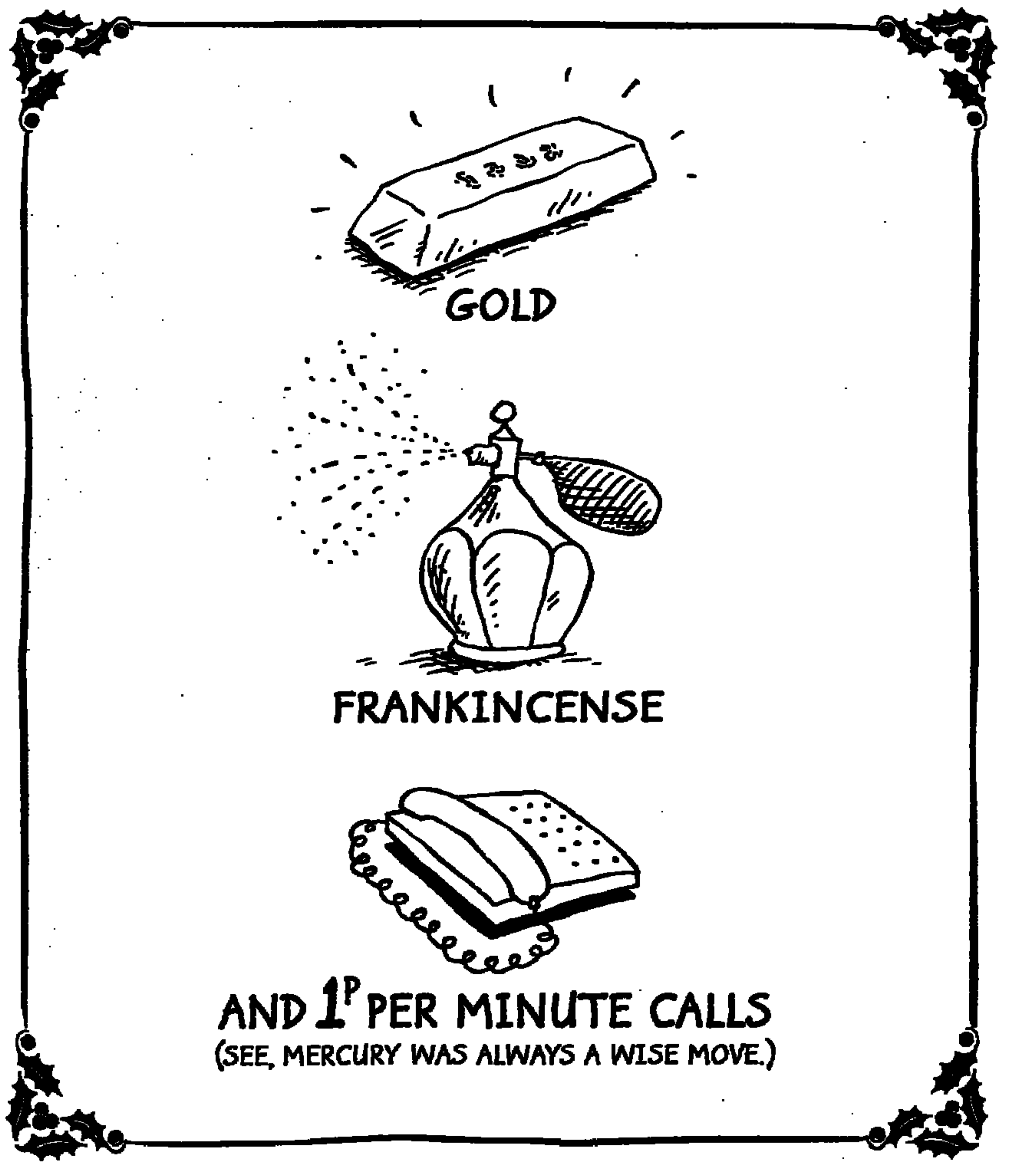
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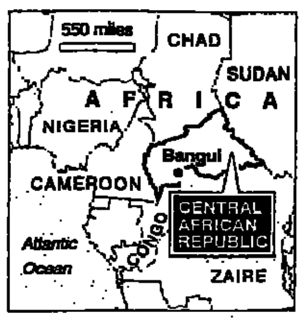
Curfew imposed as mutineers fire on French forces

By Ben Macintyre



THE President of the Central African Republic imposed a curfew on Bangui, the capital, last night as fighting between mutinous army units and French-backed government troops spread and hundreds of residents fled the city.

In a radio address President Patasse hinted that he would soon authorise a full-scale assault by the presidential guard to end the rebellion that began two weeks ago.

"In my position as commander-in-chief, I could have ordered military operations to bring this rebellion to an end, but it would have harmed civilians. Thus I was patient. I have two demands: lay down your arms immediately and without conditions," M Patasse told the rebels.

Government troops and rebels exchanged heavy fire after rebels shot at patrolling French soldiers. Two civilians were killed in the crossfire and sporadic gunfire continued yesterday.

France has about 1,500 troops stationed in the republic and they have repeatedly intervened to keep M Patasse in power. Dozens of people were killed when French troops crushed army rebellions in April and May.

French soldiers were yesterday supporting the presidential guard and securing strategic points throughout Bangui, including the presidential palace. The rebel units have effectively been trapped in the southern and western parts of the city, military officials said yesterday as French warplanes flew over the city.

The mutiny began on November 15, when soldiers demanded back-pay and the resignation of the President. The rebellion has since evolved into a regional and tribal conflict, splitting the army between soldiers from M Patasse's northern area and southerners loyal to General André Kolingba, the former President.

General Kolingba was defeated by M Patasse in the country's first multiparty elections in 1993. The President has blamed the country's chaotic finances and the army's lack of pay on corruption by the previous military regime. The French military presence has also fuelled the rebellion, with mutineers claiming M Patasse is a Paris puppet.

Parts of the south of the country are already under rebel control and residents in the south and west of the city began fleeing south at the weekend, fearing an outbreak of tribal violence and an imminent attack by the presidential guard with French support.

The rebels say they have been denied several months of back-pay. "We demand the resignation of President Patasse and we are ready to put down our arms as soon as he leaves," Sergeant Christian Guere, a rebel spokesman, said. The rebels have issued a warning that they will open fire if French troops try to intervene in force.

M Patasse was in Europe when the mutiny erupted. He returned to Bangui last Tuesday insisting that there would be no concessions to the rebels.

The funeral of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the dictator and self-styled emperor of the Central African Republic, has been postponed due to the army mutiny. France's military bases in Bangui were crucial to French military intervention in Rwanda in 1994 and are likely to be used again if the United Nations authorises a multinational intervention force in eastern Zaire.

Hutus in Burundi clash with Tutsi-led militia

By Our Foreign Staff

BURUNDI'S main Hutu rebel group said yesterday its forces were engaging Tutsi army positions in five main regions of the Central African nation and fierce fighting was sending thousands of refugees streaming into Tanzania.

Innocent Nimpagaritse, East Africa representative for the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, said fighting was raging in the provinces of Kayanza, rural Bujumbura, Bururi, Rutana and Ruyigi. He said the show of force by the Hutus proved that its forces were entrenched inside Burundi.

Earlier this week the Burundian Army reported fighting eight miles south of the capital Bujumbura. The three-year-old civil war pits Burundi's Tutsi-led military junta against rebels drawn from the majority Hutu tribe.

In a related development, a Zairean officer said yesterday that Ugandan troops had taken control of a strategic town in North Kivu province in northeast Zaire, raising fears of an escalation in cross-border incursions.

☐ Envoy recalled: Zaire recalled Ramazani Baya, its Ambassador to France, after he was involved in a car accident in which two French boys were killed last week, a French Government spokesman said yesterday. *(Reuter)*

MIKE HUTCHINGS/REUTER

A refugee, shouldering his belongings, waits for transport near the border town of Gisenyi on his return home to Rwanda. About 10,000 a day have been leaving camps in eastern Zaire, where government forces are fighting separatists

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Israel defiant as Arab League starts crisis talks

From Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, declared yesterday that the Jordan Valley area of the occupied West Bank would remain forever a part of the Jewish state.

His declaration came as the Arab League held an emergency session in Cairo to consider strategies to halt Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued by his office, Mr Netanyahu said that he had told settler representatives during a meeting "that the Government saw the Jordan Valley as inseparable from the state of Israel in any permanent agreement".

The statement also said that the Government was totally committed to the prosperity of the valley, including setting aside funds for developing infrastructure and roads "even in a tough budget year". David Levy, a Jordan Valley settler leader, said Mr Netanyahu had promised his group that 400 to 500 more homes for Jews would be made in the area.

Mr Netanyahu's commitment to maintain the area is certain to create more friction with Arab leaders, and the Palestinians who claim the West Bank for themselves. Shortly before his statement, the Palestinian Authority gave a warning at the Arab League's meeting that Israel's policies would reignite violence in the region.

"Israel insists on ripping apart the West Bank to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state, but we are determined to defend our lands by all possible means against racist settlement plans," the authority said.

Syria's representative, Issa Darwish, told reporters that the international community had failed to make Israel adhere to UN resolutions on withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.

Netanyahu: promised 500 new settler homes

Hijack jet recordings denied to experts

From Inigo Gilmore
in Johannesburg

BRITISH and American requests for access to the flight recorders of the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed off the Comoros islands have been turned down.

The Comoran authorities said at the weekend that they were seeking advice from international civil aviation authorities before releasing them to investigators. The plane crashed after running out of fuel, killing 125 people, including six Britons.

The "black box", which records cockpit communications, was recovered by divers and may contain information that could help investigators in their efforts to understand the hijacking and crash.

At the weekend two passengers detained for a week for questioning about the hijacking were hoping to leave the islands after being freed by police. Michael Odenyo, a Kenyan businessman, and Souleimane Ahmed Muhammad, a trade unionist from Djibouti, were wrongly identified as hijackers by survivors.

Cheikh Salim, a public prosecutor on the islands, said that Yonas Mekuria, the co-pilot, had identified two of the hijackers among the 125 bodies. The third is presumed to be among the victims.

Fire attack on priest

Rome: An Italian man poured petrol over a priest and set him on fire because he blamed him for his failed marriage. Pierfrancesco Caratelli, 28, was charged with attempted murder for the attack on Father Mario Torregrossa, 52, who had performed the marriage ceremony. *(Reuter)*

Crash sentence

Paris: A French court has jailed a teenager, 19, for seven years for planting a piece of metal on a railway line "just to see what would happen". A commuter train crashed, killing four people. *(Reuter)*

Café to go

Hobart: The Broad Arrow café at Port Arthur, Tasmania, where Martin Bryant murdered 20 of his 35 victims in a shooting spree last April, is to be dismantled. A memorial will be erected there. *(AFP)*

Bus tragedy

Damascus: Seventeen people, including six children, burnt to death and 20 people were injured after their bus blew a tyre, overturned and caught fire in northern Syria. *(AP)*

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US bows to Japanese pressure and scales down Okinawa base

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

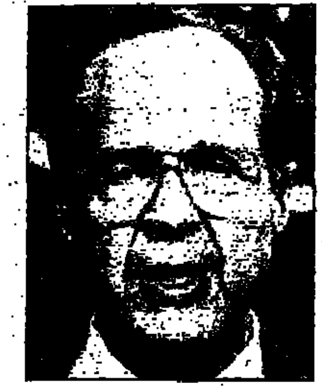
THE United States is sharply cutting back its military presence in Okinawa, the Clinton Administration is expected to announce today. The concession is being made after Japanese anger at the rape of a schoolgirl by three American Marines 14 months ago.

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, flew to Japan yesterday to conclude the pact, in the hope that it will bring to a close two years of tension between the US and one of its most important allies. It marks an acknowledgement by the US that Japanese concern over the behaviour of American servicemen threatened to sour relations between the countries.

"I have to say that I'm very proud of what we have achieved," Mr Perry said yesterday at the end of his 13-hour flight to Japan from the United Arab Emirates. "There is no security relationship for the United States that is more important than the US-Japan alliance, which has been an absolute bedrock of stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

The move comes in the wake of Mr Clinton's post-election tour of Asia, in which he attempted to smooth America's increasingly strained trading and security relationships in the region.

Both Governments believe that the US military presence is necessary to maintain stability in the Pacific and to counteract fears of Chinese expansion. Okinawa, an island 650 miles south of Tokyo and close to North Korea and China, is of enormous strategic value, and has supported up to three-quarters of US servicemen in Japan.



Perry: hopes agreement will appease Japanese

But the culture clash between the islanders and the boisterous Marines, whose low ground flights and artillery training disrupted everyday life, provoked a loud "Yankee Go Home" campaign. Public anger came to a head 14 months ago when a 12-year old schoolgirl was raped. All three servicemen were tried and convicted in a Japanese court.

President Clinton personally expressed his deep regret to Japan for the rape. However, US officials have been concerned that if steps to appease public anger were not taken, the US might be forced to withdraw its entire military presence.

Last year Japanese women placed a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* calling for the removal of all troops. Walter Mondale, the US Ambassador to Japan who resigned last month, has said that the case was his most difficult task in three years in Tokyo.

Under the agreement, drawn up by a joint Japanese-American committee, the US will return about 12,000 of the 58,000 acres used by the US military on Okinawa. The land includes 9,000 acres of mountainous jungle used for combat and survival training.

Marine Corps training programmes and flights will be changed to reduce noise, parachute drops will be relocated away from villages and physical training hikes on public roads will be stopped. Live artillery training, which used to take place across one of the island's main highways, forcing it to close regularly, will now be relocated.

In one of the most costly changes, the US will close the Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma, a leading helicopter base, in the next five to seven years. Talks are continuing on whether the Japanese Government will pay for a new $2 billion (£1.2 billion) floating helipad off the Okinawa coast.

Mr Perry is expected to finalise the agreement today with Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister, and Fumio Kyuma, Defence Minister.

"We have significantly reduced the burden on the Okinawan people," Mr Perry said yesterday, adding: "We have maintained the vital security mission that the US forces are there to perform."

AFP

One of 50 Tibetans arrested yesterday in Delhi as they tried to block the convoy of President Jiang Zemin of China at the end of his three-day visit to India

Mother Teresa sleeps as she was moved between hospitals in Calcutta last week

Mother Teresa told she cannot go home

Delhi: Mother Teresa, 86, woke yesterday morning after a heart operation on Saturday and asked doctors to send her home to be with fellow nuns at her Missionaries of Charity headquarters in Calcutta. She was told she was too ill to be moved (Christopher Thomas writes). "I can look after myself," she argued, but doctors said her longstanding lung and kidney diseases were of major concern and were complicating her condition. Round-the-clock prayers for her recovery are being offered by nuns of her order.

Dr Devi Shetty said the nun's pacemaker, fitted in 1989, had been reprogrammed to boost cardiac output to allow her kidneys to function better. "She is still critically ill . . . but not in renal failure. She is stable."

Asean defies West in vow to admit Burma soon

Jakarta: Leaders of Asean — the Association of South East Asian Nations — refused to bow to Western concerns over human rights abuses in Burma and said at the weekend that the Rangoon military Government would be admitted to the group (A Special Correspondent writes).

They also criticised the European Union, singling out Portugal, for its unremitting opposition to Indonesia's occupation of East Timor.

Asean refused to put a date on Burma's entry because of differences among members but it is expected to join when Cambodia and Laos does within the next 12 months.

Western Governments believe admitting Burma would be tantamount to condoning the oppresion of Burma's democracy movement. But Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, said: "The Myanmar [Burma] of today is not the Myanmar of many years ago. It is because of our constructive engagement that it has changed." Burma's leaders were observers at the meeting.

Peking leaves out prison chapter of soldier's heroic tale

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

CHINA'S Communist Party has rewritten history yet again by celebrating the career of Peng Dehuai, the army's greatest marshal, without mentioning his purging by Mao Tse-tung and his death in prison.

Politburo and army leaders gathered over the weekend to mark the publication of a biography of Marshal Peng described by Xinhua, the official news agency, as the victor of hundreds of battles, commander-in-chief of Chinese forces during the Korean War, and Minister of Defence "until 1959 . . . [who] died in 1974 at the age of 76".

The son of peasants, born in 1898, Peng joined Mao early in the revolution. He was made Minister of Defence and was Mao's immediate neighbour in the secluded leaders' compound in a corner of Peking's Forbidden City.

In 1959, however, during the Great Leap Forward — Mao's scheme for vastly increasing agricultural and industrial production through ideological fervour — Peng discovered on a rural tour the beginnings of the greatest famine in history in which, between 1959 and 1961, 30 million to 50 million people died. Although many officials knew that statistics supplied to Mao of astonishing rural and industrial yields were bogus and that scenes of plenty had been confected to deceive the Chairman, they feared to tell him the truth.

At a conference of party and military leaders in the summer of 1959, Peng came close to accusing Mao of lying about the successes of the Great Leap Forward and wrote him a memorandum stating that the Leap had failed, the statistics were false, and famine was looming. In a series of meetings and speeches Mao struck back, accusing Peng of being an "opportunist", a "rightist" and "bourgeois".

Peng was expelled from his luxurious quarters near Mao to a delapidated house in a Peking suburb, although he retained his title as a Politburo member and vice-premier. At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution he was arrested and in 1974 he died in prison. His former colleagues, who praised him at the weekend, spoke as if his life from 1959 to 1974 was one of peaceful retirement.

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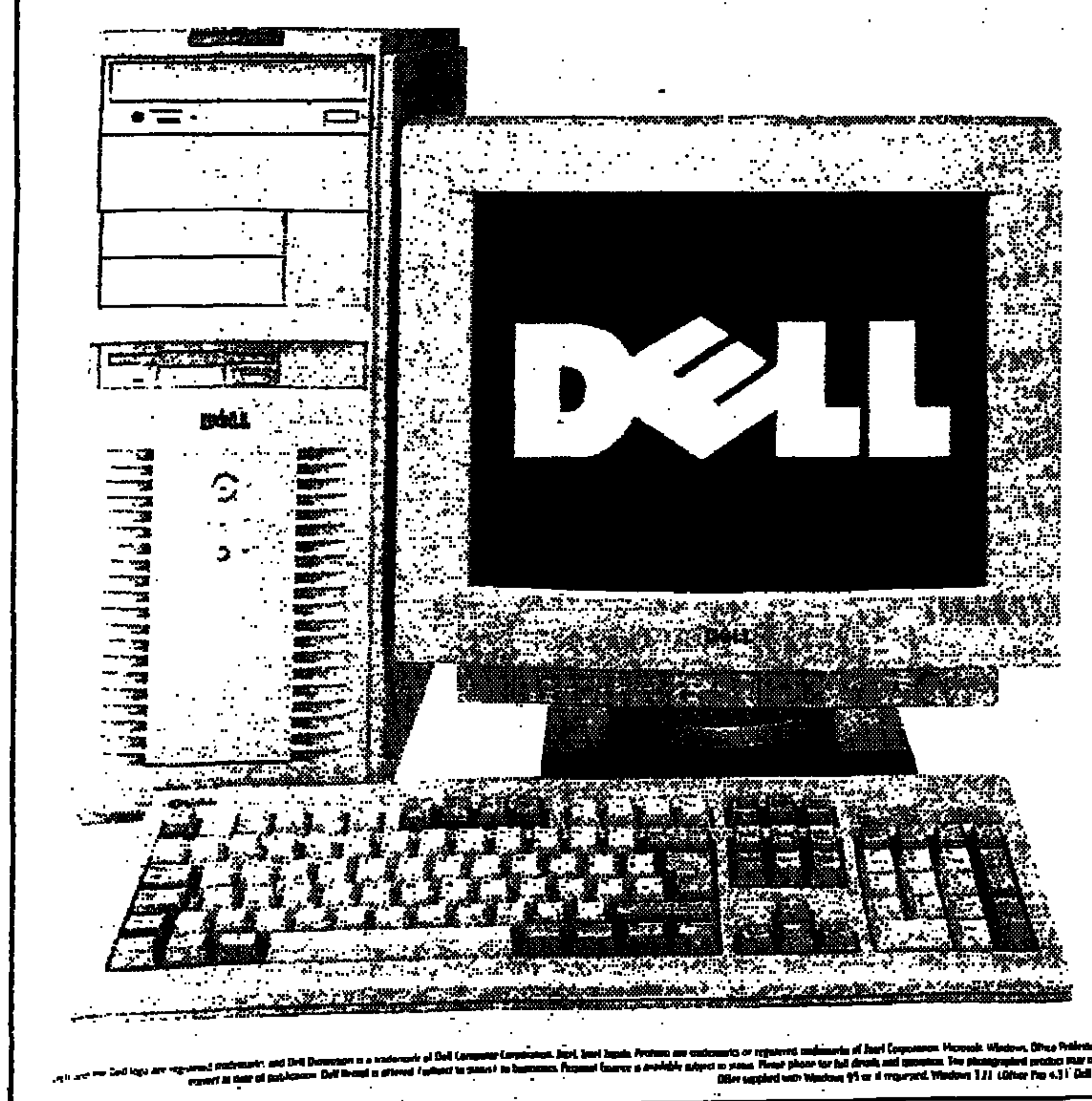

After the tragedies in Wales and Scotland, **Anjana Ahuja** explains how such outbreaks are controlled

Detectives on the trail of disease

JEFF SMITH/IMAGE BANK

On the trail: the Public Health Laboratory Service has 50 bases in England and Wales staffed with hundreds of medical investigators

They lurk in food, in water systems, inside our own bodies, and even in hospitals, waiting to pounce on the vulnerable. There are thousands of different strains of bugs, many of them deadly. So it is a miracle that events as tragic as those which unfolded in Cardiff over the weekend, where two students died of meningitis, and in Scotland last week, where five people died in an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning, do not happen more often.

The rarity of such outbreaks is a tribute to an army of scientists toiling to keep the bugs at bay. Through its 50 laboratories throughout England and Wales, the Public Health Laboratory Service boasts hundreds of medical detectives ready to deal with any outbreak, whether an infectious disease such as measles or meningitis, an imported disease such as malaria, or food poisoning. In Scotland, this role is carried out by the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health.

The PHLS was set up after the Second World War to combat the threat of war-related epidemics. It is entrusted not only with containing outbreaks, but also with carrying out routine surveillance to keep track of diseases such as influenza. This allows any emerging strains to be identified as quickly as possible.

Public health scientists constantly make checks to ensure that the current flu vaccines are still effective. Each year they, along with other scientists in major public health laboratories around the world, report their findings to the World Health Organisation and vaccine makers. The PHLS also monitors water quality, and keeps tabs on the the spread of the Aids virus, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Monitoring a disease can often provide clues, or early warnings, that help to control it. PHLS figures show, for example, that last year cases of meningitis peaked in November, and then showed a second peak in January and February. They also show an increasing number of "clusters" of the disease, of which the Cardiff outbreak is typical, and that there have increasing numbers of cases in which septicaemia — blood poisoning — is a complication.

> Any new strains are spotted as quickly as possible

One suspicion voiced by Dr Norman Begg, deputy director of the Service's communicable disease surveillance centre, is that increased smoking among teenagers may have contributed to the rise in cases. "There is a very complex relationship between meningococcal disease and smoking," he said when he presented these figures in January. "We know more children are smoking."

Meningitis, in spite of the clusters of cases that have been observed, is usually a sporadic disease. Much clearer patterns emerge in food poisoning episodes. The smallest suspicion triggers a remarkable chain of events as the PHLS detectives swing into action.

Imagine that you have gone to your family doctor with a case of suspected food poisoning. A specimen is taken and sent to your local hospital laboratory. From that specimen, the local laboratory grows the offending organism.

The organism, together with a profile of the patient, is then sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory in north London, the nerve centre of the PHLS operation. Here, the organism is "fingerprinted" within days and compared with strains of various bugs.

In addition to the central laboratory, there are reference centres which specialise in one type of organism (salmonella, for example). These centres keep samples of every strain known to science. Your local hospital and your GP is then informed of the result and, if appropriate, the environmental health department.

Meanwhile, the PHLS monitors how often this germ has cropped up. Dr Noel Gill, the deputy director of the organisation's Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, describes an example of the way in which the PHLS goes into action.

"In the final week of January last year, the samples of one particular bug, *Salmonella agona*, had gone from one every two weeks to five in the same week," Dr Gill says. A cluster of cases is called a sentinel event.

"In these events, we then look at the characteristics of each case, such as the places affected. Also, if just infants are involved, we would look at baby food. If it was a rural area, we might suspect unpasteurised milk," he says.

In the mysterious case of *Salmonella agona*, the incidents occurred only in Leeds and north London, and one researcher noticed that the patients, all of them children, had Jewish surnames. Could a kosher foodstuff be the culprit?

This, Dr Gill says, was the signal to move the investigation up a gear, by asking the parents to list in meticulous detail what their child had eaten the previous week. One kosher snack food, manufactured in Israel, kept cropping up.

"This is when we got quite excited," Dr Gill recalls. "We jumped in a car and drove to Golders Green in north London to meet the families. They were orthodox, which heightened suspicion even more."

The next stage was to conduct an epidemiological study, by interviewing "control" households. These are households unaffected by any outbreak. How were suitable families found?

Parents of the patients were asked to nominate similar families, and these nominated families were questioned about food they had eaten. As expected, none of the healthy children had eaten the snack.

The evidence was becoming compelling — a laboratory test turned up definitive proof. Once the source of the food scare was identified, the Department of Health issued a public warning. However, the salmonella saga, now five days old, was to take on an unusual twist. Dr Gill's colleagues decided to alert public health scientists in New York, which has a large Jewish community, and Israel, where the snack was produced.

Via a series of e-mails, they discovered that Israel was three months into a severe outbreak of food poisoning.

"Thousands of people had gone down with exactly the same symptoms as in Britain and New York," Dr Gill says. "They thought it was something in chicken feed, and hadn't thought of this snack at all. If that happened in Britain, there would be a scandal."

The statistics associated with the PHLS, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, are indeed impressive. Among its 3,000 staff, there are scientific officers, clinical microbiologists, statisticians and epidemiologists. They examine about 25,000 human specimens and environmental samples a day. "Even I am stunned at the level of surveillance the PHLS provides," Dr Gill says.

Universities where science flourishes ☐ People born to anxiety ☐ Tracking a chemical building block

Two cheers for Oxbridge

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

OXFORD, Cambridge and Imperial College may have the most scientists in Britain, but not necessarily the best, a new assessment of research quality suggests.

The universities of Glasgow, Dundee, Durham, Leicester, Hull, Strathclyde, Edinburgh, York, the City University in London, and the Open University all come top in at least one discipline.

The figures come from the Institute for Scientific Information, a Philadelphia-based organisation that bases its assessments on a huge database of published scientific papers. The quality of the papers is measured by counting the number of times they are cited by other scientists: a valuable paper will have many such citations, a trivial one hardly any.

If the total number of citations in any field is counted, Oxford and Cambridge do well, coming top in 12 out of 21 fields studied. But a different result emerges when the rankings are based on citations per paper. Then the quality of many smaller universities emerges. In physics, for example, the top three in total citations are Cambridge, Oxford, and Imperial College, in that order.

But the top three in citations per paper are Glasgow, Lancaster, and Sussex. Glasgow also came first in engineering, while Dundee tops the tables in biology and biochemistry and in molecular biology.

Durham is top in astrophysics and mathematics, while Hull leads the list in materials science, the Open University in geosciences, City University in computer science and York in education. Cambridge has only one top placing, in chemistry, while Oxford has four.

The tables are to be published in the next issue of *Science Watch*, the journal published by the ISI. The organisation explains that the results are not to be taken as an evaluation of individual departments, but many researchers in smaller universities will nonetheless be delighted to see their ratings are high. They are likely to use them to fight growing pressure to concentrate research in "elite" institutions, which in general are the bigger ones.

Watch this space for hydrogen

WITH a sigh of relief, two astronomers have finally located in space the characteristic signature of a hydrogen ion with three protons in it. For a long time theory has held that this ion, known as hydrogen-three-plus, or H3+, plays a key part in the formation of the many chemical species that are found in space. But H3+ itself proved to be very elusive.

Normal hydrogen molecules consist of two atoms, each with a single proton and a single electron. H3+ has three protons and two electrons, leaving it with a positive electrical charge. It is, effectively, an electrically charged molecule which can be fairly easily made in the laboratory. Sixteen years ago Dr Takeshi Oka, of the University of Chicago, measured the infrared spectrum of H3+ in the laboratory, and started looking for it in space.

In *Nature*, he and Dr Thomas Geballe of the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hilo, Hawaii report that they have finally found it. Using the UK Infrared Telescope they found very faint signs of H3+ in two interstellar clouds. The amounts they found fit with theories of how rapidly the molecule is made by the action of cosmic rays on ordinary hydrogen molecules. Without the reactive H3+ it is hard to see how many more complex molecules in space would be made.

Don't fret about worry, it's all in your genes

ANXIOUS? Fretful? Blame your genes. Scientists have identified a stretch of DNA that contributes to the differing levels of anxiety felt by different people.

They already knew that the DNA, on chromosome 17, was responsible for switching on a nearby gene that in turn codes for a protein that transports the neurotransmitter serotonin back into brain cells so they can use it again. Preventing this re-uptake of serotonin is the basis of action of the anti-depressant Prozac.

Two versions of this promoter gene exist, a long and a short. People with the shorter version have lower levels of the serotonin transport protein, so it seemed reasonable to Drs Klaus-Peter Lesch, of Wutzburg University, and Dr Dennis Murphy, of the US National Institutes of Health, to investigate whether they were also more anxious.

They recruited 505 people, and found that half had the long form and half the short. The volunteers all completed a questionnaire about their personalities which showed, the scientists report in *Science*, that indeed people with the short version were more likely to admit to worrying a lot, and said they were often tense and jittery.

The promotor does not account for more than a small part of the variation in anxiety — roughly 8 per cent — but this is significant. "It won't be long before we know whether it's related to psychiatric diseases like phobia or panic disorders," says Dr David Goldman, a geneticist at the US National Institutes of Health. The odds are that there are other genes which also contribute, along with the experience of life.

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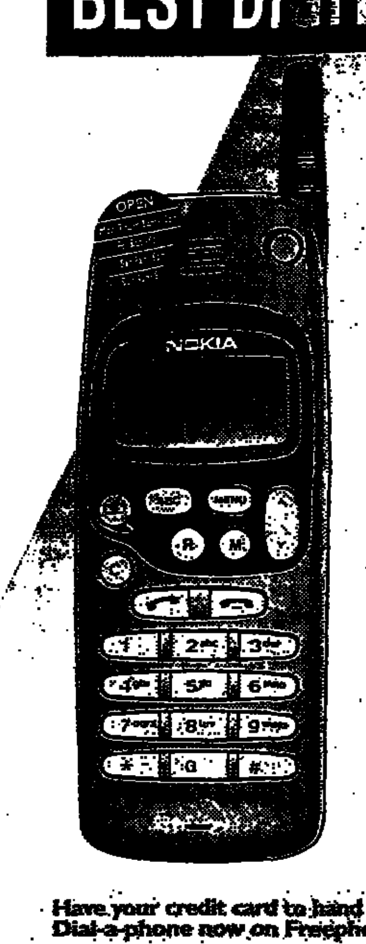

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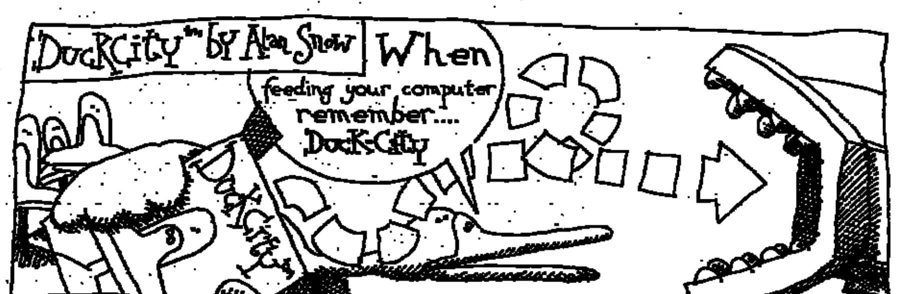
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I always want total control

Barbra Streisand on why she had to direct her new film — and how she always checks out a new man with his Mom. Interview by **Mal Vincent**

Barbra Streisand is above all a performer. With a flash of the eye, she checked the lights as she entered the room for the interview. A publicist, eagerly seeking approval, suggested they couldn't have been better for Marlene Dietrich.

"No, Marlene would have the lights over there, and not so high." Streisand countered, pointing with a manicured nail. Streisand probably would know exactly where Dietrich would have had the lights. She's been called obsessive, egomaniacal, driven, demanding, and worse. There were 15 walkouts and firings from the set of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, her first film in five years, and the third that she has directed. She also composed parts of the music and, of course, stars. "I used to be embarrassed and defensive about that word, 'control'," she says. "Of course I want total control. The audience buys my work because I have complete control — because I'm a perfectionist. I care deeply.

"I have to think it's a sexist attitude — definitely. A man who did what I do would be called thorough. But that's the way it has to be — until it changes."

Wearing a black dress with a black-ribbon choker, she looked smaller and more demure than a show business titan. "Of all of it, directing, acting, singing, this is the hardest," she says. "Doing an interview is the hardest — talking about myself and trying to intellectualise things I do. I act by instinct. Who can talk about it?"

Today, though, she is talking about herself. Once she told me: "I made it without getting a nose job. Write that. Write it down. Not many can say it." Now she reflects on the self-deprecating way she looks at herself. In *The Mirror Has Two Faces* she plays a college professor of romantic literature who has given up on romance, until she meets a burnt-out maths professor who is tired of the rigours of physical attraction. "It's a throwback to my old films, particularly *Funny Girl*," she says, "and it's a little about me. People have always talked about how I looked, and none of it too favourable. Once my stepfather said I couldn't have ice-cream because I was too ugly. My mother never told me I was smart, pretty — anything. When I told her I wanted to be a movie star, she said I wasn't pretty enough.

"We live in a society where all these skinny models are thrown up at us as the ideal. We're told we have to look a certain way ... Love should come from the heart, not the eye. That's what the movie is about."

Barbra Joan Streisand, 54, was born in a rough section of Brooklyn. Her father, Emmanuel, a high school teacher, died when she was 15 months old and she was brought up by her grandmother. Asked to name the hardest time in her life, she doesn't hesitate. "Childhood. Definitely. I was an outcast. I was this strange kid, growing up with one parent. I had one date in high school. I had a 98 average, but I wanted to be an actress. The school called my mother in to talk to her about why I wasn't going to college. I started dressing funny and bleached my hair. I was a real oddball.

Barbra Streisand with Jon Peters

"I'd go to the movies every Saturday, and lose myself. Sure, there were great stars like Vivien Leigh, but the accepted norm was more Sandra Dee — girls with tiny little noses and blonde hair. Stars like Humphrey Bogart and Spencer Tracy didn't have to be conventionally handsome. The demands were different."

At 18, she won a talent contest at a Greenwich Village nightclub — singing. She stole the show in a supporting role for the Broadway musical *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* and married the leading man, Elliott Gould. (She has one son, Jason Gould, who appeared under her direction in *The Prince of Tides*.) Streisand's marriage to Gould ended in divorce. She's been romantically linked with such varied types as Jon Peters, Don Johnson, Omar Sharif, André Agassi, Steven Spielberg and the former Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau. For the past four months, she's been dating James Brolin, actor and sportsman.

She reached Broadway stardom in *Funny Girl* and won an Oscar for her film debut of it in 1968. A few years later, she was worth $100 million (£66 million) — the highest-paid woman in show business. "There was a line in *Funny Girl* about how you had to ask for a great deal of money if you wanted any respect. I learnt that. I've had to give up my profits to get the movies I most wanted to make produced — *Yentl* and *The Prince of Tides*."

She's been known to require dozens of takes to get a scene right. Walter Matthau, who co-starred with her in *Hello, Dolly*, once said: "I was appalled at every move she made." Dudley Moore was fired, reportedly because he couldn't remember his lines, and replaced by George Segal in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. Of the 14 others who left, "creative differences" were listed as the cause. In New York, during the worst winter on record, she ran over budget. She denies the story that she once asked the assistant director why he couldn't move the sun to put it in the right place. "There was a misunderstanding, too, about us filming a new ending," she said. "We didn't. We went back to film Central Park with leaves in the trees. It was costing us $8,000 a tree to paste the leaves on during the winter." Bridges says: "I know Barbra as a courageous kind of person — not a person without fear."

Streisand says she sought Bridges because "I liked his work in other films and I think he has a great mom. She's outspoken and bright and he gets along well with her. From that, I thought he'd be easy to direct," she laughs. "In dating, a woman should check on how the man gets along with his mother. That will tell their attitude toward women." Initially, *The Mirror Has Two Faces* was about a woman who went through plastic surgery and changes her appearance. "That was cut right away. I wasn't concerned with outward, cosmetic changes. We turned it from a French melodrama into an American comedy-romance."

ARMANDO GALLO/RETNA

"People have always talked about how I looked, and none of it too favourable. Once my stepfather said I couldn't have ice-cream because I was too ugly"

It is Lauren Bacall, as Streisand's youth-obsessed and looks-obsessed mother, who has received the best reviews and is mentioned as an Oscar nominee. "I first met Barbra on the opening night of *Funny Girl*," Bacall says. "From that night, she was a star. I went over and told her 'You're so damned good, I think maybe I should slap you.'." Almost 30 years later, Bacall went to Streisand's New York apartment to talk about the role in *Mirror*. "She was very much the director. Very professional," Bacall says. "She asked 'Do you think you could be my mother?' I told her that I could, and that was that." Streisand says she first saw Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*. "I was amazed that she never thought she was beautiful. Many beautiful women are like that."

Streisand asked both Robert Zemeckis and Herbert Ross to direct *Mirror* but they declined. Ross, who directed her in *The Owl and the Pussycat*, says: "The reasons for her popularity have changed over the years. She has become an Establishment figure. Time does that to every rebel."

> 'It cost us $8,000 a tree to paste the leaves on in winter'

"I was interested in directing from the first moment I stepped on a movie set," she says. "I have no problem directing myself. I fight with myself rather than anyone else. The director demands the actress deliver, and I have to deliver."

As for *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, she says: "There is a lot of me in it. I learnt like Rose, that I can be the best I can be and not be obsessed with looks. I wish I had seen a movie like this when I was a teenager."

●The Mirror Has two Faces *Opens on January 10.*

●*Adapted from an article which first appeared in* The Virginian-Pilot

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In the drug-blighted city of Svetlogorsk, one in 20 of the population is predicted to die in

The city that is dying of Aids

YURI KOZYREV

A cursed generation: two newlyweds place a tribute on a monument for the men of Svetlogorsk who died in Afghanistan. In the city's second wave of Aids, young women such as this are at great risk of contracting HIV through sex

Twenty-year-old Olya giggled nervously on the hospital bed as she tensed her left arm and searched the bruised and pockmarked skin for a clean entry point to her vein. Looking over her shoulder to make sure that no nurses were watching, she plunged the needle into her arm and slowly fed the caramel-brown liquid into her body.

Like thousands of other drug addicts in this blighted industrial city in southern Belarus, Olya, for the third time that day, had found peace and escape from the misery of her life.

The hectoring voices of her parents, the guilt she feels about abandoning her three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Tanya, and the fate of her missing, drug-addicted husband, Zhenya, drained away into a heroin-induced oblivion. The world once again seemed bearable.

Olya and her fellow patient Sveta, also 20, are, by the grim reckoning of the doctors and nurses who treat them in this town's only hospital, unlikely ever to survive beyond their 30th birthdays. They are just two of the victims of what is emerging as one of the worst Aids epidemic ever recorded in the world.

Were you to search the European continent for a community that has suffered so much in its short history, it would be hard, with the exception of the war-ravaged areas of the former Yugoslavia, to find anywhere as cursed as Svetlogorsk.

It is not just the grim Soviet industrial landscape and the town's chemical factory, spewing pollutants into the air, that make the city exceptional. Nor is it the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which covered this area of Belarus in radioactive fallout, and which still contaminates the forests and rivers around the city and spreads cancer among the young.

What makes Svetlogorsk unique is that it is now in the grip of a deadly Aids epidemic, which, like some medieval plague, threatens in the coming years to wipe out about one in every 20 members of the population.

"We expected something bad here, but we never thought it would hit us so fast and on such a huge scale," says Doctor Svyatoslav Samoshkin, the city's deputy chief doctor, who runs an anti-Aids programme from the dilapidated hospital. "Sometimes I still can't quite believe it is happening. Why us?"

In part, at least, the reasons for the rapid spread of the disease must lie in Svetlogorsk's disastrous social conditions. The city was founded *in 1961 during the Khrushchev* era as a model Soviet community.

Young couples from 28 different ethnic backgrounds were recruited from around the Soviet Union with the *promise of cheap housing*, good jobs and a stable future.

However, among those who were attracted to the town were workers from Central Asia, who brought with them the traditional skills of harvesting *poppies* for opium and heroin use.

In addition, the city authorities drafted in petty criminals, known as "*khimiki*" (chemical workers), who instead of going to prison, were pressed into service at *the town's main* chemical factory.

Not suprisingly the experiment in social engineering was a complete failure. The city had a built-in criminal underclass, uprooted families *living in an unfamiliar* environment, packed into a landscape of drab high-rise concrete apartment blocks and dependent *for work on* the chemicals factory, the paper mill and the power station. To add to its woes the area received the full impact of *Chernobyl*. Much of the wood used by the paper mill was heavily contaminated, and the city's meagre health resources were *stretched to breaking point by* the effects of the radiation, particularly thyroid cancer among children.

Peasant women and drug dealers mix in the streets

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the relaxation of border constraints *meant that diseases such as Aids* were more easily imported, and without the iron discipline of the Soviet police state, drug dealing became *much easier*, particularly across the border from Ukraine.

The first sign of the impending calamity came in late *May, when a 20*-year-old railway worker and drug addict travelled to Minsk to try to kick his habit at a psychiatric hospital. He and his *wife both tested positive to* HIV. The medical authorities, who had already been alerted to the spread of the disease in neighbouring Ukraine, immediately ordered widespread testing for HIV among drug *users in* Svetlogorsk.

The results were devastating. Of the 220 officially registered drug addicts, half tested HIV positive in June. By *August the figure had risen to* 370 and by the middle of November the authorities reported that some 950 people, in a city of 73,000, were positive.

The real figure is much *higher, and it is widely* accepted that half of the estimated 6,000 drug users have now contracted the virus.

Drug addicts in this part of eastern Europe inject themselves with a substance known as *makovaya solomka*, better know by its nickname "mak", a resinous extract of poppy which has become a poor man's heroin.

The drug has been made locally for years, usually by small groups of users who harvest the poppies. However, as demand increased, a lucrative business emerged, with the drug manufactured in large quantities and distributed, often by gypsy families, to dealers who sell it on the street for about £1 for a single dose.

It is widely suspected that the HIV epidemic was caused partly out of ignorance of the dangers of sharing needles, but also because small quantities of blood were commonly used to increase the potentcy of the narcotic.

On the bleak streets of Svetlogorsk. The city was planned as a communist paradise, but it became a hell on earth

Evidence of the drug is everywhere today. Dirty needles litter playgrounds and entrance halls of the crumbling cement apartment blocks. Even at the hospital ward reserved for drug addicts, where teenagers are tested and treated for hepatitis and other diseases, the pushers still peddle little brown bottles of the *drug through the windows to* the patients.

In Svetlogorsk's main street, the dealers have overrun a small fruit and vegetable market. As old women in peasant scarves sell cabbage and pickles *from little stalls, they sit* incongruously beside clusters of young men and women in leather jackets, their pockets bulging with bank notes.

"This is worse than Chernobyl. Then we came *together against the threat*. Now our city is divided. They are killing it," says Raisa, a

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an epidemic of Aids. **Richard Beeston** talks to two young addicts

YURI KOZYREV

Olya and Sveta, two girls without hope: Olya, left, is pointing out the track marks from drug injections on her arm. "I can't see one good reason to give up," she says

middle-aged factory worker, pointing out the dealers as one makes a sale to a gaunt youth; desperate for a fix.

Raisa's case is typical of many families. She had two sons. The eldest missed the drugs wave, got married and secured a steady job. But the teenage son began experimenting with "mak" and Raisa says she realised that he would die unless she could do something.

"If I had the money I would have taken my whole family out of here. Instead a good friend saved us. He took my son away. Not just to another city, but to another republic [in the former Soviet Union]," she says, wiping away a tear.

"I miss him, of course, but it is the only way I can know that he is safe. If he had stayed here he would die — just like the rest of this city's youth. I do not know who put this terrible curse on our city."

That same sense of panic was the first reaction of the local authorities, who initially used Soviet-style methods to combat the problem. "You see the same thing whenever Aids hits in the former Soviet Union," says Doctor Lev Khodakevich, who heads the UN's regional Aids programme for Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. "They believe it is an imported disease that can be stopped by testing foreigners. The Soviet instinct was to cover it up, arrest suspects and hope the problem will go away."

Olya and Sveta in their hospital ward at Svetlogorsk

In Svetlogorsk, the police were sent out to arrest suspected drug users and forcibly test them. Angry residents demanded that they be locked up. But the city administration quickly realised that it was too late to stop the disease once it was spread. Aids was there to stay and the city would have to learn how to live with it.

"International practice has shown that repressive measures do not work," said Aleksandr Yakobson, the mayor, speaking on a call-in show broadcast on local television. "Concealing the problem does not work either. Besides that is not my style."

Nevertheless, there is still enormous ignorance among the population about drugs and Aids and how to cope with the problem. The city's programme of education, run through public forums and a telephone hotline, has received questions such as: Can the disease be spread via money? Could we not just round up the addicts and shoot them? Is aid from the West safe to use?

Under UN advice the city has adopted a scheme first used in Britain to help contain the problem. As well as concrete measures, like exchanging used syringes and needles for new ones, and providing condoms, most of the project is about educating the public about safe sex and the dangers of sharing needles.

The campaign has had some limited successes. Nikolai, an addict for more than ten years, who was recuperating at the city hospital after the needle marks on his arms and legs went septic, said that he had decided to try to give up. "I know that if I carry on, I will die," he said, looking weak and walking with difficulty. "I want to live and I am really going to try to give it up for good."

However, the medical staff at the hospital privately believe that Nikolai's chances of really kicking the habit are very small.

Sometimes junkies do give up for two or three months, but once they are back on the streets with their friends it is almost impossible to resist shooting up once more. There is little else for the bored youth to do. The drug is cheaper than a bottle of vodka.

Certainly, even in the most optimistic judgment, the city faces a very bleak future. Experience abroad has shown that after the first wave of infection among drug users other vulnerable sections of the population will be affected. Almost all those currently testing positive to HIV are in their teens and twenties, the most sexually active age group.

As in many parts of the former Soviet Union, Belarus is experiencing an epidemic of venereal disease. The two factors combined mean that a second wave of Aids infection is inevitable, mainly among young women contracting HIV through sex. "We are bracing ourselves for the second wave," said Dr Samoshkin, pointing out a young, healthy-looking young man in his ward, who had just tested positive to the disease and was undergoing further tests by a nurse dressed in protective clothing.

"We have received lots of advice and support on how to live with this problem, but no one has told me what I am supposed to say to the young people, like that boy, who come before me every day. An entire generation of this city will die off in the coming years. How can I persuade them to live a full life in the little time that is left?"

For Olya, however, enjoying her latest fix, such problems seem vague and unimportant. "My parents are always going on at me to give up," she said. "I can't think of one good reason why I should."

Leading article, page 21

The nations unite to warn of a scourge

Michael Binyon reports on the World Aids Day campaign

"PLEASE use a condom." Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday urged South Africans in a blunt warning to his country of the dangers of Aids.

Outlining the risks of not sticking to Christian teachings on sex, he spoke of a crisis facing South Africa in an advertisement on state television as part of South Africa's campaign to mark World Aids Day.

In countries all over the world politicians and health officials echoed his warning. They said Aids was still spreading rapidly throughout the Third World, especially in Asia, and there are now an estimated 22 million people carrying the Aids virus.

In India, health officials said there could be as many as 50 million Aids cases by the end of the century, ten times the present total. Bombay, home to an estimated 70,000 prostitutes in its notorious Kamathipura district, marked World Aids Day with marches, photo exhibitions and television coverage. Campaigners called for better counselling for prostitutes and lorry drivers, who are one of the main causes of the spread of Aids across India.

By contrast, China announced at the weekend that it had only 133 cases of full-blown Aids out of a population of more than a billion. But health officials said there were a reported 5,157 HIV cases in October. Chinese officials say that more than a million people could be affected by the year 2000. China's National Prevention and Control Committee of Aids experts has given a warning that more tests studies should be carried out on popular herbal remedies.

Aids is already widespread in Thailand, largely because of the thriving sex industry. Petrol stations yesterday began handing out three million condoms, free to customers, with a warning: "Be careful of Aids when feeling naughty." An estimated 800,000 Thais are HIV positive, and more than 50,000 people have died. The Government has long campaigned energetically to raise awareness.

Other countries giving warnings yesterday of likely huge rises in infection were Pakistan, now estimated to have 80,000 people with the virus, and the Philippines, where reticence about the subject and Roman Catholic disapproval of condoms has inhibited attempts to change sexual behaviour.

While Aids cases are now rising more slowly in America and Europe, Africa remains the worst hit area. Uganda said that it hoped the tide had been turned in the disease which now affects ten per cent of the population and has cut life expectancy by ten years. Uganda has borrowed money from the World Bank for a vigorous campaign, and neighbouring countries are also planning to step up efforts. However, the fighting in Zaire and the outbreak of other diseases among refugees has worsened the prospects of reducing the high incidence in central Africa.

Marches, television advertisements and free distribution of pamphlets and condoms also marked World Aids Day in Brazil, Honduras, Uruguay and other Latin American countries where Aids is now a serious threat.

> Marches, pamphlets — and free condoms at petrol stations

IN ARTS TODAY

Let's hear it for the BBC, purveyor of fine programmes at a bargain price: Melvyn Bragg on the virtues of Auntie. Arts, pages 18-19

Picture courtesy of NBPA

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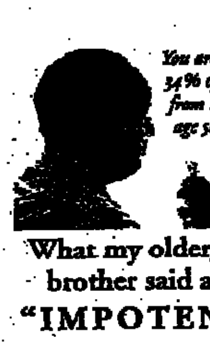
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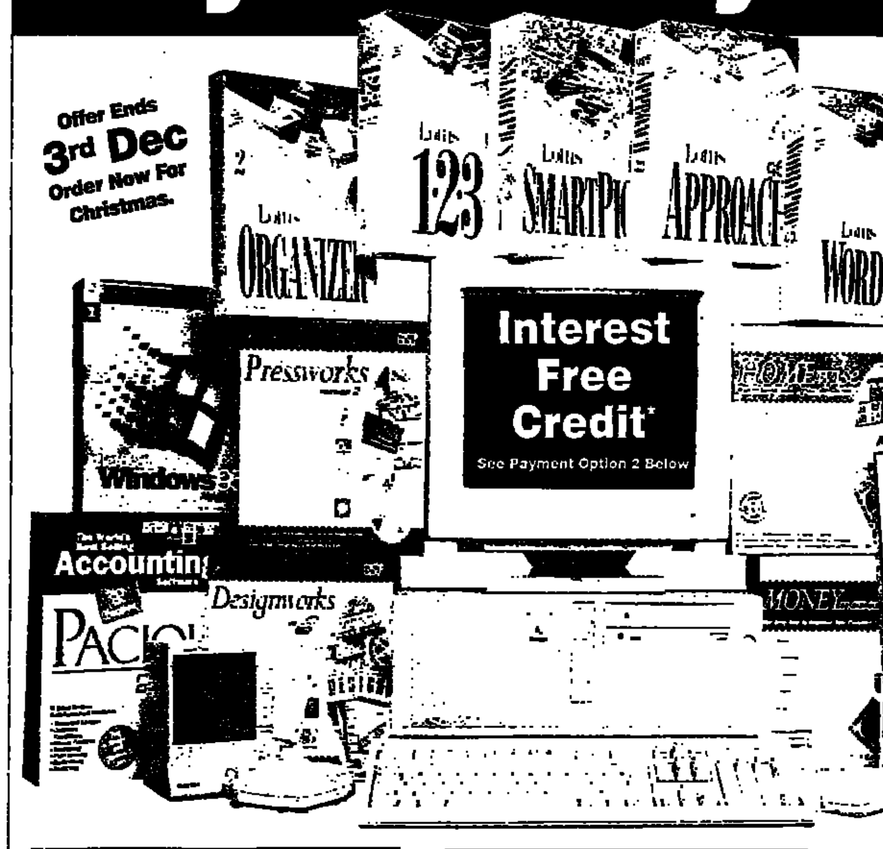

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ THEATRE

Face of farce: Griff Rhys Jones stars in Ben Travers's *Plunder* at the Savoy

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ BOOKS

Soldiers of the Queen: *British Military Spectacle* is surveyed in all its glory

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

■ FESTIVAL

Veteran of the avant-garde: György Ligeti is celebrated on the South Bank in London

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

■ FILM

Jodie Foster directs Holly Hunter and Anne Bancroft in the comedy-drama *Home for the Holiday*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

THEATRE: Roll up, roll up to a brilliant circus with a cast of two. Plus, a poorly plotted banking farce goes to the wall

Magic up their sleeves

Le Cercle Invisible
Mermaid Theatre

THE team of Jean Baptiste Thierrée and Victoria Chaplin (the third of Charlie's five daughters) has spent the past 20 years refining the chaotic swirl of the traditional circus to a cascade of quirky theatrical terms. In closing down the world of the Big Top they ingeniously open up the world of the imagination.

Theirs is a ping-pong match of throwaway pranks and magical transformations. Thierrée enters stage left with a lurid suitcase full of spring-loaded tricks and manically chopped-up vegetables, and exits pursued by one of Chaplin's exotic mimes. Chaplin enters stage right, bristling with enough chairs to make her look like a prehistoric lizard. She sheds the chairs like a skin, rebuilds them into a huge giraffe, climbs on its back — and, amazingly, the illusion lollops off.

That the show works so brilliantly is because these solo turns are infused with a charm and technique that is far more beguiling than the component parts. It is the shambolic chemistry between Chaplin's gaunt, thoughtful poise and Thierrée's madcaps that creates the unpredictable sense of Wonderland. The Parisian's genius is that he is a lousy magician with a first-rate sense of visual humour. If his routines depended on his conjuring ability he would be standing with his hat out in the Strand. It also helps that he is a ringer for Benny Hill.

It is the surreal sense he makes of his small blizzard of visual gags that enchants: he lights a candle, eats it, and turns on a red bulb in the region of his stomach. But his best work is his frolics with puppets. An operatic aria is accompanied by the animated faces of two duelling tenors pinned to his kneecaps. Later, a large coat and a papier mâché head make him look as if he is been carried around in a box by some unfortunate tramp.

Chaplin, by contrast, is a riveting mix of orthodox trapeze artiste and supreme shape shifter. Unlike Thierrée, she is absorbed by the beauty and danger of her art, whether it is flinging herself into the auditorium on a rope swing, or mutating one of her extraordinary costumes into a giant bullfrog. It is not all acrobatics, camouflage and contortion. There is music, wit and story too. Children of all ages will be entranced.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Low interest account

Inside Trading
Norwich Playhouse

THIS would-be farce, exploiting the well-known follies of our grand old banking tradition, started life 63 years ago as *Jugend Voran* ("Youth to the Fore") in Berlin, where it enjoyed a nice little run a few months after Hitler came to power. Malcolm Bradbury, author of the modern adaptation, alluded to its success at such a time in his curtain speech: he wondered if the bright young conman who takes over a sclerotic bank represented the little man with the black moustache. Yes, no, who can say? Exposed to Bradbury's version we certainly can't tell how the hero was viewed by its original author, Paul Vulpius, of whom nothing more is known (the name has a pseudonymous taste to it).

Much of our confusion comes from Bradbury's own uncertainty as to what genre he is fitting his story into. Is it farce? Not fast enough. Comedy? Not funny enough. Pointed criticism of a Barings-like tolerance of fiscal irregularities? You tell me.

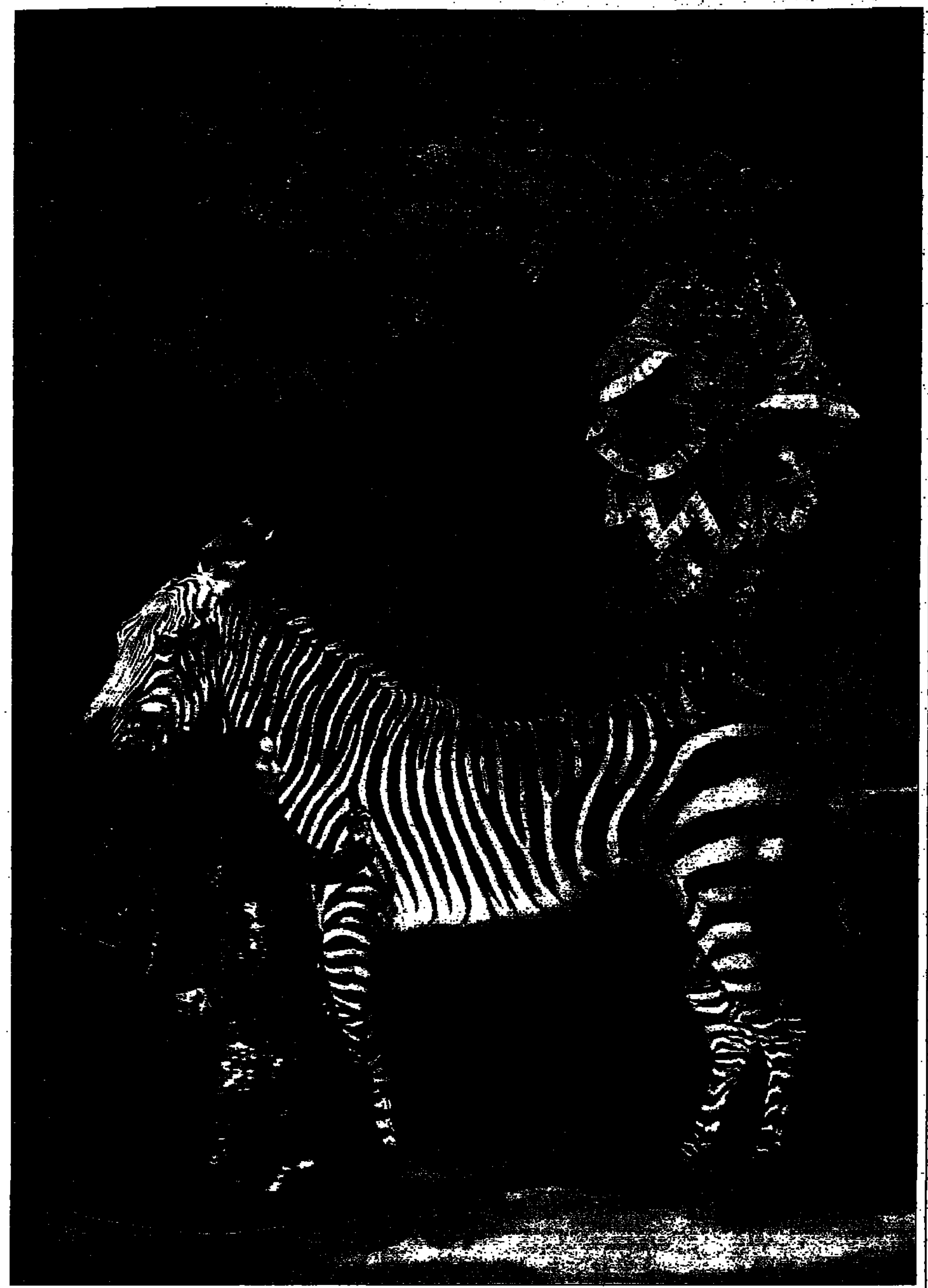
Compressed into a couple of sentences the plot sounds full of promise. An out-of-work nobody familiarises himself with the habits of an absent-minded chairman of a bank. He wanders into this fellow's office, digs out details of a forgotten company, sells, buys, spreads rumours and, by relying on the principle that no one questions the quality of the emperor's new clothes, transforms the company, the bank and even the nation.

When Bradbury wants to make fun of corporate incompetence he comes up with enough comic ideas to allow those lucky actors to create a role. The results may be caricature, but they hold the stage, whether it is Peter Whitbread's craggy old peer, never at a loss for an unwanted memory, or Richard Heffer's feather-voiced chairman, who manages to make his eyebrows express what his mouth dare not utter.

But with his central character, Wickerman (man of straw?), Bradbury wobbles between making him recklessly inventive and sent into a panic by his success. Both qualities could co-exist, but the fibres to connect them are not in place, so it is no surprise that Duncan Wisbey's performance is disappointing.

Even more serious, the wobble extends to the plotting. Exits are not well motivated, some entrances even less so. Wickerman reveals his scam to the chairman's daughter, but there is no logic behind this. Henry Burke's direction is successful only when the script works, and cannot disguise its failings.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Victoria Chaplin, Jean Baptiste Thierrée and a zebra make *Le Cercle Invisible* the biggest, most topping circus in town

A really good sing

The Pearl Fishers
Coliseum

THE young Bizet's opera — he was 24 when he wrote it — is now a repertory piece, starting to rival even *Carmen* as a crowd-puller. This is curious, and rather heartening. The libretto is dotty even by the standards of 19th-century hackwork, but what Bizet made of it shows how music of genius — not just the Temple Duet, but number after number of white-hot inspiration — can transform the basest metal into pure gold. The whole may not add up, but each part is so compelling that you fail to notice.

The latest ENO revival of Bizet's Celanese sweetmeat is strongly cast. The diminutive Mary Plazas, singing her first Leila, really does look like one of those tutelatory child-priestesses still engaged for a season in the East (the plot is not as far-fetched as it looks) but her pure, agile lyric soprano projects easily into the auditorium in an enormously winning interpretation. Ashley Holland is the new Zurga: his warm, closely focused baritone is ideal, and his diction crystal-clear. John Hudson returns as Nadir, happily unfazed by the high tessitura, flirting with danger only at the unwritten high C in his Serenade (why bother with it? Leave it, as Bizet did, to the oboe). Mark Richardson makes much of little as the High Priest, and the chorus has a really good sing.

Michael Lloyd conducts with appropriate energy: a gentler speed for the Prelude, a little lingering over the bass quavers, would engender a more powerful sense of foreboding. Philip Prowse's staging — with its mysterious extra character, its pearl-divers in *Czardas-Princess* scarlet boots and not a lot else, the boat from his production of *La Gioconda* still with its Venetian glass fairy-lights, and its sneak preview of the millennium ferris wheel — need not be taken too seriously, nor should it. What we have here is a West End show, but one with real music: Sir Cameron Mackintosh should look in, and take notes.

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MELVYN BRAGG

Oh no! Not another bleat *about raising* the BBC's licence fee! Baa. And not by this party who works for them for pity's sake. Too many insider dealings lately. All of them at it. Did you see that sixtieth anniversary charade? Distressing. Men Behaving Badly? You bet. And do *they have* to be commercial and must they go digital and why on earth are they into everything and aren't the writers and producers up in arms and shouldn't it stay like it was?

The BBC is a national punchbag. Sometimes it deserves a *thump* or *two. It is* also a national asset. Sometimes we all need to know that.

The problem is that those who write about the BBC either work for the BBC or have worked for the BBC or want to work for the BBC or have been refused work by the BBC or want to topple the BBC. There is not an uncoloured view in the land.

The BBC has cried wolf so many times over the years that the sheep have become entirely blasé. They do not even lift their heads. Its arrogance can be irritating and rashly wounding to other broadcasters. It can be maddening to work for, I am told, and infuriating to compete against. In its great strengths and silly, often avoidable weaknesses, it is wholly British and it deserves the best shot we can give it. At the moment it deserves our backing in its push for a significant increase in funding.

The sole reason for this is the quality of its programmes. As a programme-maker I am continuously suspicious of anyone who puts the organisation of the system above the attention which must be paid to talent. As a *contributor to* the BBC on Radio 4, I find it exemplary: focused, skilful, dedicated. As a recipient of BBC gossip and static, I hear that these are troubled times. But the programmes keep coming through in quality, in numbers and in variety and so something has to be right.

It was the example of the BBC which made ITV just as unique in its own way as the Great Corporation. ITV is a very successful commercial and public service channel found nowhere else on the planet.

The example of BBC2 helped to conjure a commercially-based Channel 4 into its successfully radical remit. Given adequate financial clout — and the strength of its funding is one of the key differences between the BBC and other world broadcasting systems — it could have an equally influen*tial and beneficial effect* on the uncertain qualities in prospect for our multichannel future.

Alone in the television galaxy the BBC makes a critical mass of programmes from a different basic "given" than that of everyone else. Commercial pressures of one sort or another apply to all the rest of us and they can and do produce programmes every bit as fine as those on the BBC. But, to quote Michael Grade, the BBC keeps us honest and its best ambitions *ensure that we have a premier* programme-making league in this country across the board.

To put forward a crude argument: in the current context, where paying for television (at a high level in some cases) is accepted and growing, the BBC's two TV channels, its five national radio and innumerable local radio stations, its orchestras, educational spin-offs and World Service achievements are a bargain and would still be a bargain at £100 and even £120 or £150. There are problems with payment for the poor and these have to be addressed, but it is well within the wit of a willing government to do so. But for the vast majority of viewers and listeners, the BBC, were it a share, would be a snip at the price.

For more than two thirds of a century, despite vanities and fripperies and inevitable errors, the BBC has not really let us down. The whole issue to me has a touch of the absurd. The BBC is far more popular and enduring than this or any other government.

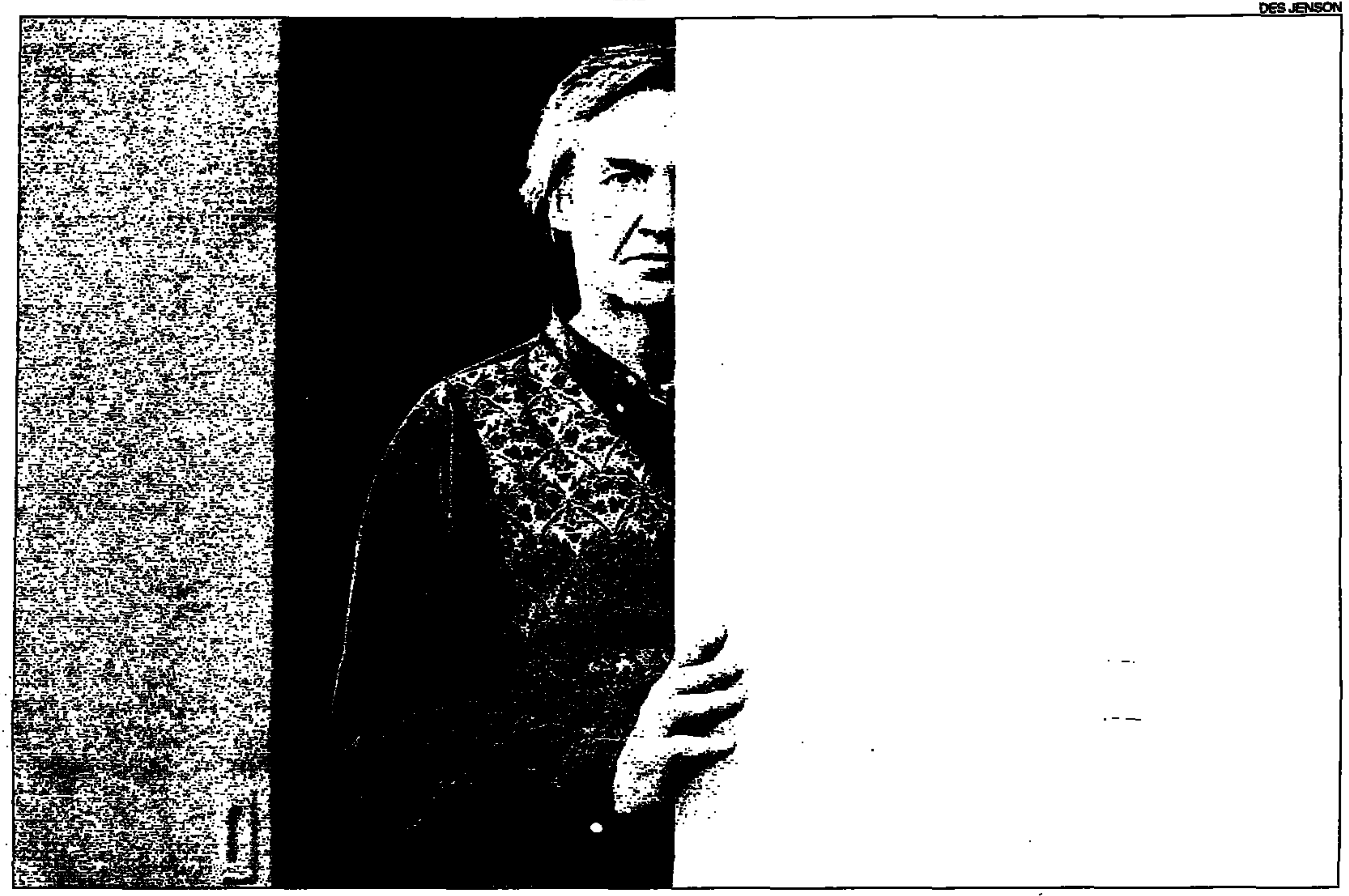
The BBC's executives have taken some tough decisions lately and have taken on tough targets. BBC programme-makers have sustained a fighting front, despite all the rumblings and grumblings behind the line. Surely there is no sustainable argument against giving them the modest increase which would enable them to continue and extend a most remarkable spread of work?

The musical *Saturday Night Fever* is entering the theatrical lists for the first time next summer in London. It has had a curious career. It began when the entrepreneur Robert Stigwood spotted an essay in *Time* magazine; on the strength of that he set up a small-budget film, discovering this young newcomer Travolta. Desperate for music he rang the Bee Gees, whom he had discovered a week after their arrival in London, and they sent over a few songs they had been recording in France: *Stayin' Alive, Night Fever,* that sort of thing. They neither read the script nor saw the film — a couple of them have not seen the full film yet.

Last week, filming with them in Miami, they told me that the LP was the biggest-seller ever in the world at around 50 million copies and a few more will surely change hands when *Fever* hits the streets of the city now described as the world's capital of fun, entertainment and arts. They also told me *that an early title of the film — Night Fever* — was rejected by Stigwood because he thought it would be too "pornographic". Times do change.

The lamb in wolf's clothing

THEATRE:
Daniel Rosenthal meets the unlikely star of the Fellini musical, *Nine*



DES JENSON

No hiding place: the actor Larry Lamb is more used to playing Great Train Robbers on screen than a womanising Italian film director on stage

A collected edition of Larry Lamb's tales from stage and screen would trace a 25-year journey from amateur dramatics in Libya to his latest West End lead, via Nova Scotia, New York and various points south.

The latest leg of this world tour finds the 49-year-old actor standing on a table in the basement of the American Church in central London. Arms outstretched, he is encircled by half a dozen young actresses, fellow members of the company rehearsing for *Nine*, the Broadway musical based on Federico Fellini's *8½*.

Tokyo-based David Leveaux, back in London after his searing *Salome* at the Coliseum in May, directs, and Lamb takes the Marcello Mastroianni role of the fortysomething film director whose marriage and career are on the brink of collapse.

Confronted with Lamb's dark-eyed good looks and heavy-limbed frame, you picture him exuding Cockney bravado as not one, but two Great Train Robbers (Bruce Reynolds in *Buster* and Ronnie Biggs in the BBC film, *Slipper*), plus the Brink's-Mat villain Kenneth Noye in ITV's 1992 *Fool's Gold*; or perhaps aboard a North Sea ferry in three series of *Triangle* (of which more later). None of these parts, he concedes, nor impressive credits in plays by Wedekind, Sam Shepard et al, marked him out as an obvious choice for *Nine*.

"I have a decent singing voice, and after listening to a tape of *Nine* before the audition I thought I could have a decent crack at Guido," he explains. "But this is my first musical, and when I started working with a singing coach in October there were, let's say, a few minor obstacles to overcome."

Fellini's surreal self-portrait of the artist in midlife crisis was adapted by Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit in 1982, 19 years after it earned Fellini his third Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Titled *Nine* for contractual reasons (and, suggests Lamb, "because *Eight-and-a-half* just doesn't scan"), it opened on Broadway with the late Raul Julia as Guido and won the Tony for best musical, since when numerous attempts to mount a London production have failed.

Nine retains *8½*'s most memorable characters (fans of Sarraghina, the dancing whore, should book now) while adding some marvellous, original touches. "This is more a homage than a stage adaptation," says Lamb, rejecting comparison with this year's ill-fated RSC version of *Les Enfants du Paradis*. "Aspects of *8½* are used to create a piece of musical theatre which is funnier than the film, but just as dark. Comparisons between me and Mastroianni — who is a master — will inevitably be drawn. All I can do is try not to impersonate him."

No hints of Mastroianni, then, but Lamb's Guido will contain "elements" of Alberto Lattuada, the man who co-directed one of Fellini's earliest films — thereby putting one of the halves into *8½* (Fellini had seven solo credits, plus three collaborations worth half a point each). "I worked with Lattuada for eight months on an Eighties mini-series about Columbus and saw that Italian directors do operate like *Guido*. They are gods on their movies. Nothing happens unless they want it to."

Married and divorced three times, Lamb now talks of a "calm, settled" private life. His past, however, offers "plenty to draw on" when playing a womaniser. "Guido has wife, mistress and another one coming down the pipe. He has a lot of plates spinning, this boy, and I was once a great plate-spinner. Not any more." At which point a polite shake of the head indicates the time has come to talk of other things.

His inability to master A-level chemistry having scuppered teenage dreams of becoming a doctor, Lamb left his North London grammar school determined "to see the world and avoid a humdrum existence". Germany was his *first stop, selling* encyclopaedias to American servicemen.

"I was a hopeless salesman, just chatting to prospective buyers. Then an American friend decided I should be an actor and dragged me along to an army drama club in Bremerhaven. I ended up as Henry VIII in *A Man for All Seasons*. Acting lit something in me."

His return to England coincided with the Seventies oil boom, and he trained with Esso as a corrosion control engineer. Posted to Libya, he joined the 3,000-strong British community's thriving amdram scene. "I would be flown 60 miles into the desert to work on the oil fields, then flown back for evening rehearsals. I remember doing a weird parlour drama called *Goodnight, Mrs Puffin*.

"I went to work for another oil firm, in Pennsylvania, and after a while I got promoted and sent to Nova Scotia. Aged 27, I was earning fabulous money — the equivalent of £3,000 a week."

Whatever flame had been lit in Germany convinced him to give up these riches and turn professional. He won a season with the Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, rubbing shoulders with the "incredibly supportive" *Maggie Smith and Jessica* Tandy. Six months on Broadway in Trevor Griffiths's *Comedians*, directed by Mike Nichols, could have paved the way to indefinite residence in the United States, but Lamb was unwilling "to take on the outer shell of an American", and headed home.

> ‘Funnier than the film, but just as dark’

A steady stream of stage and television roles soon developed, which brings us back to BBC1's 1981-83 soap, *Triangle*. You remember *Triangle*? First Officer Lamb locking horns and lips with boss's daughter Kate O'Mara as they ploughed the, er, tempestuous waters between England, Holland and Sweden. Some actors might resent being reminded of their part in a drama regarded as a Grade A turkey. Not Lamb. With the unaffected enthusiasm and charm which have made him such good company, he is off and running.

"*Triangle* meant reasonable money and a good time on location. I would have been stupid to turn it down. Having been in it becomes more and more of a distinction." Even though it featured in the 1992 BBC theme night devoted to *TV Hell*? "Not *only* was it included, it was the only series to merit not just a clip, but a whole episode."

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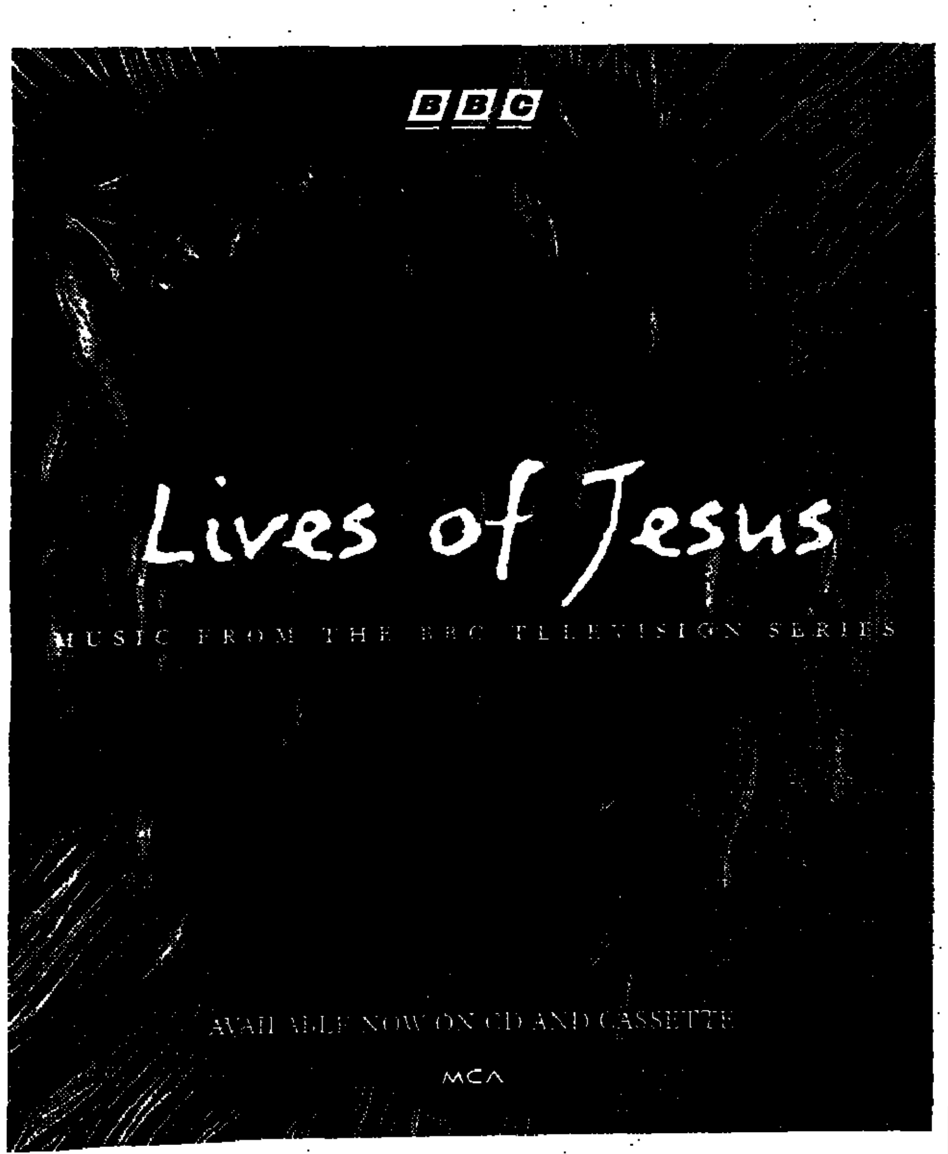
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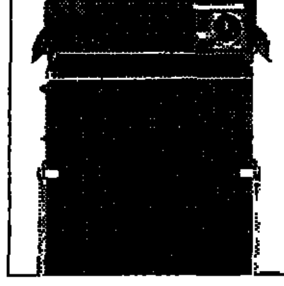

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Matthew Parris

■ Exeter Tories have chosen a hater of homosexuals as their candidate. What is the proper response?

Suppose you were a Jewish Tory — a supposition which, for readers who are Jewish Tories, may not require too great an imaginative leap. And suppose a local Tory association chose as its parliamentary candidate a man who described your people as "godforsaken" and worse. What would you do?

Let me propose three options. Leave the Tory party and call on all people everywhere to vote for another; or, stay but recommend voters in this candidate's constituency not to vote for him; or, insist that Conservatives should always vote Tory, but urge the party to reconsider its choice of candidate in this case.

Were a hypothetical Jewish Tory to choose the third option, we would think him a very restrained fellow. Party members would give him a respectful hearing, grateful for his decision to stay loyal, stay on board, and work from within.

David Allen, chairman of the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality is such a man. As vice-president of the campaign I joined some 15 years ago, I offer him total support. Mr Allen was posed a difficult question and gave the right answer. The decision of Exeter Conservative Association to select Dr Adrian Rogers as their prospective candidate was an insult to millions of people, including many thousands in Exeter.

Dr Rogers has described homosexuality as a "sterile, disease-ridden godforsaken occupation" and advocated its recriminalisation and the proscription by law of all establishments where gay men or lesbians meet. If this were just a personal view, held in all conscience and offered in response to inquiry, he might not deserve targetting. But he never ceases to volunteer it, made a career within the Conservative Family Campaign by expressing it, and couches his views in such hateful and intemperate language as to attract personal publicity. It is his crusade. People have a right to crusade, but they must expect flak; and those who select them as candidates must ask whether this flak will be helpful in a marginal seat containing a large university.

I first met David Allen when he was a student at Exeter. I had gone there as a Tory MP to take part in a debate on homosexual equality. That was more than a decade ago. At Exeter last week, Angela Mason, director of the Stonewall lobbying group, debated the same question with Dr Rogers. Mr Allen spoke from the floor. Angela Mason made her case in her calm and dignified way. Mr Allen said it was at Exeter that he had first made love to someone of his own sex. Dr Rogers said he should turn himself in to a police station.

Mr Allen will now suffer the fate of all who steer a middle course: he will be attacked from both sides. Because he refused to recommend any Tory not to vote for Dr Rogers, elements in the gay media are vilifying him as being akin (in their words) to "a Jew who urges others to vote for the Nazis". Because he refuses to lead any campaign himself against Dr Rogers's candidacy, but says that is for Exeter Conservatives to consider, he is called feeble. And from the Tory moral Right, which would love to see our campaign for homosexual equality expelled from the party, he is attacked for causing trouble.

From all this he should take comfort. If he were to recommend any voter not to vote for any Tory candidate, he would give the moral Right just the ammunition it wants. David Allen's purpose is the opposite: to win votes for his party. He is entitled to warn Exeter Conservatives that they are going the wrong way about it.

And they should understand that this story is not going to go away. Exeter, where 3 per cent can swing the outcome, is the constituency where the previous Labour candidate was thrown out for having allegedly expedited the conviction of an anti-apartheid activist hanged in South Africa, and where the new Labour candidate (a BBC journalist) has recently announced that he is gay. I am tempted to suggest that since Exeter homophobes are already unlikely to be voting Labour, Exeter Tories might turn their minds to finding a candidate who does not repel the other 95 per cent.

> It is good for candidates to be crusaders, but they must expect criticism

As tonight's vote on the future of Sir Nicholas Scott demonstrates, there is a growing readiness to insist that a parliamentary candidate's personal or ideological profile matters, and both his supporters and his critics should welcome that. Far from being a modern idea, this is the old-fashioned way. It restores the importance of the individual backbencher. It is grit in the engine of the infernal party machine with its dreary party slates.

To bring single-issue debates and their protagonists back within the fold of the great parties is to refresh them, however inconvenient their managers may find it. The trend means that both progressives and traditionalists are likely to have platforms, and we who think Dr Rogers's bigotry should be an issue in Exeter must accept equally that anti-gay (or anti-abortion) campaigners who try to influence the selection or deselection of candidates are not only within their rights, but invigorate politics.

A bas, Adrian Rogers! Onward, David Allen!

The man with the laptop cannot be traced and taxed, so governments will have to cut spending

When tax revenues slip through the Net

William Rees-Mogg

Let us start with the facts in the Piedras Negras Broadcasting case; I will then explain why it is of central importance to the future of the world. The Piedras Negras Broadcasting Company was an American equivalent to the old Radio Luxembourg. In 1941 it was broadcasting programmes including advertisements across the border from Mexico to Texas. The American tax commissioners argued that this constituted "engaging in a trade or business" in the United States and claimed the right to tax the company.

Piedras Negras appealed to the Board of Tax Appeals, which found in favour of the company; the tax commissioners then appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the finding. The actual words of the Court of Appeal were: "If income is produced by the transmission of electromagnetic waves that cover a radius of several thousand miles, free of control of regulation by the sender from the moment of generation, the source of that income is the act of transmission."

"Piedras Negras", as Mr Michael Karlin of the American lawyers Morgan, Lewis & Bockius observed in his recent UCLA lecture, "continues to be good law, and should apply to Internet advertising as it does to other broadcast income." In terms of regulation, the European Union has followed the Piedras Negras principle. In European law, which has been much complained about in Britain, the regulation of satellite broadcasting is the responsibility of the transmitting and not of the receiving country; in the case of the Astra satellite, that is Luxembourg, which does in fact regulate, through the terms of the basic contract between the Luxembourg Government and Astra.

Mr Karlin's lecture was entitled "Cybertax: The Impact of the Internet on International Taxation and Vice Versa". Although the Internet is still in its infancy, it is already clear that it is going to alter the whole tax structure of the advanced countries. To start with, international taxation is growing in importance. We are entering the age of the global economy, and leaving the age of separate national economies. International taxation is based on the concept of residence and source. As Mr Karlin comments: "The Internet and other technological developments will tend to undermine the administrability of a tax system based on these concepts."

As Piedras Negras determined — and it is hard to see how that could be reversed — the taxable source of an electronic communication is the point of origin, not the point of receipt. On the Internet this source may be unknowable, and even when it is knowable it may be located in a jurisdiction where no tax is levied. Many tax systems depend on the customer reporting the source from which he is provided: that cannot be required of Internet transactions because the customer does not necessarily know who or where the provider is.

Mr Karlin also points to the disintermediation which is already one of the Internet's most striking characteristics. Instead of people dealing with each other through an intermediary, they are able to deal direct; they no longer need the distributors, brokers, bankers and so on who put them in touch with each other in terrestrial business, because the Internet lets them do that for themselves. But these intermediaries are the people who report taxable transactions to the authorities, and they are essential to the tax system. No intermediary, no reporting.

Substantial taxable revenues will therefore just disappear, either because the activity is taxable only in another jurisdiction, or because the source of activity is not traceable, or because the activity will no longer be reported to the tax authorities. These legal and administrative problems arise even before one looks at encryption. Cheap and readily available software for encoding Internet messages is already on the market, at a cost of £100 or so. In theory, some of these codes could be broken, but if one considers that there will be billions of messages running through billions of alternative routes and using billions of coding possibilities, the tax authorities will not in practice be able to decipher them: In short, cyberspace is an impregnable tax haven, and unfortunately a haven for money laundering as well.

So far the US Treasury Department's response seems to be based on three rather unstable premises, with signs of the development of a new but very illiberal strategy. The first premise is that, as far as possible, Internet taxation should follow existing tax principles. The second is that new tax classifications should be avoided. The third is that the emphasis on taxation by source should be replaced by taxation by residence. As you cannot catch the electronic message, you go for the individual. This is already the strategy of the penal policies the Americans have adopted to stop their citizens giving up citizenship, to tax those who do, to refuse entry to the United States to those who have given up citizenship for what are deemed to be tax reasons, and to tax aliens who have been resident in the United States when they leave.

This is a real threat to turn the United States into a penal tax colony, and shows every sign of panic. In fact, an increasing number of highly paid intellectual activities can be pursued anywhere in the world. Just as the source of an electronic message cannot be identified, so most activities in intellectual property can be performed in any location and transmitted instantaneously. The United States strategy may drive its élite earners to leave early, and leave for good, but if it cannot identify the electronic transactions, it will still be unable to tax them.

This process of tax erosion is only beginning. Global electronic transactions will multiply again and again, and will become harder and harder to identify. Habits of tax payment formed in the period when transactions could be identified will weaken. Indirect taxes will become a more and more important part of revenue because you can tax what you can touch or see. Necessities will increasingly be taxed, because they are both identifiable and impossible to avoid. Property taxes will rise. Even so, the taxing capacity of governments as a percentage of gross domestic product will steadily be reduced. The tax take is likely to fall in most countries from around the French level of 50 per cent to around the Hong Kong level of 20 per cent. The ambitions of government will have to be reduced; in particular welfare systems in which most transfer payments go both from and to middle-class and middle-income people are likely to become both insolvent and unpopular.

The direction of change is unmistakable. The timing and scale are not so certain. A working assumption might be that the explosive collision between rising welfare costs and a shrinking tax base will come in the period between 2005 and 2010, three British Parliaments and three American presidential terms from now. The political debate may be about whether to cut expenditure, perhaps by about a third, or to try to penalise the taxpayer because the transactions cannot be identified. The penal policy will not work. You cannot tax the man with the laptop if you do not know who or where he is. The principle of Piedras Negras is going to change the world of the next century.

Who's wearing Labour's clothes?

Peter Riddell

says Labour's confusion has been exposed by the Budget

Gordon Brown and Tony Blair should be worried. They could be the long-term losers from last week's Budget. In the short term, admittedly, Labour is still well-placed and nothing has happened to alter the election odds. But if, after the election, a Blair government falters and fails in office, it may be because of its inability to cope with the consequences of the public borrowing, spending and tax plans announced last Tuesday.

Labour's dilemma is that the tensions inherent in its own strategy have been made more acute by the flaws in Kenneth Clarke's proposals. The Budget has highlighted contradictions in new Labour, which would be faced by any centre-left party in an era of limited government: how to promise change while appearing financially responsible. Gordon Brown is sincere in his determination to be an "Iron Chancellor", sticking to the golden rule limiting public borrowing only to what the government invests and with tight limits on overall debt. A Blair government would not be wildly profligate. Tory claims that Labour is committed to £30 billion extra in public spending over the life of a Parliament are absurdly high. They miss Labour's real weakness: that the attempt to stay within tight fiscal constraints will destroy the unity of a Blair government, disillusion its supporters and bring attacks from left-wingers such as Dennis Skinner and his successors — just the same as happened to the Wilson and Callaghan administrations.

The Blairite answer is that this time Labour is being open *before* the election, so there can be no charges of betrayal afterwards. Labour will make commitments only where the financing is identified, as in the five early pledges on youth unemployment (from the windfall levy on utilities), reduced hospital waiting-lists (from cutting administrative costs), smaller class sizes (from phasing out the assisted places scheme) and the like. Otherwise, extra spending will have to come from savings within existing budgets, and for 1997-98 Labour would stick to the plans announced last Tuesday.

But these figures do not add up. Labour has a case in saying that the initial shareholders in the utilities made a killing at the expense of taxpayers, but that was five or ten years ago. Much has since changed: notably the regulatory regime is much tighter. Moreover, the proposed cuts in support for the private sector in education (assisted places) and health (ending tax relief on insurance for over-sixties) go in the wrong direction. Links between the private and public sectors should be strengthened, not weakened.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Labour policy has been seriously contradictory in proposing no overall rise in public spending while opposing many of the Tory measures to contain expenditure. Last week, Labour spokesmen were again denouncing cuts in a wide range of programmes, from the London Underground to single-parent premiums, without saying whether their party could, or would, reverse them. Yet without such measures, spending will rise inexorably.

The Budget has aggravated these pressures. The macro-economic projections are over-optimistic and the spending plans are unsustainable. Public borrowing is too high for a period of strong growth, and the signs of a consumer boom strengthen the case for further restraint to avoid a rise in inflation. Moreover, the public spending figures rely heavily on creative accounting, exceptional items (such as the sale of defence homes) and improbably tight squeezes on Civil Service running costs and core programmes. The Government is being too optimistic in its claims about savings from its much trumpeted "spend to save" attack on tax evasion and benefit fraud. There should be a few blushes in the Treasury. So leaving aside the probability of further rises in interest rates in the coming weeks or months, the Chancellor after the election, whoever he may be, will have to consider lower spending and higher taxes.

Labour is going to have to rethink its current approach if it is to offer a credible stategy at the election which does not have to be abandoned afterwards. Talking in general terms about restraint and cutting waste is no longer good enough. Labour has to say *where* it would cut spending. A Blair government would have to be radical — not only dropping ideas it has used to appease the unions, such as the end of compulsory competitive tendering, but also recasting the social security system in much the way that Peter Lilley has done.

Even if these measures succeed in limiting the growth of spending, the tax burden will have to rise if borrowing is to be reduced and standards in, say, the health service are to be maintained. While Mr Clarke has stolen some of Labour's clothes with his attack on tax evasion, there is scope for raising more from the corporate sector and the better-off by tackling perks and closing loopholes. Labour may promise that tax rates for most people will not rise, but it is wrong to enter into a competition with the Tories on tax-cutting by proposing a new starting rate of 15 or 10 per cent at some vague future date and a cut in VAT on domestic fuel. Such populist gestures may be good for Labour's image with wavering voters, but they create a false impression about future taxes.

Mr Brown regards these criticisms as unfair and impossibly purist. After all, hasn't he been the most responsible Shadow Chancellor in memory? Hasn't he made himself unpopular in the party by stamping on any *hint* of new commitments? Isn't it much harder to agree expenditure savings in opposition than in government? Hasn't Labour revealed more of its plans than any previous Opposition, and isn't it being judged by tougher standards than the Tories? These are all reasonable points, but it is precisely because the public, and the markets, believe that Mr Brown will be Chancellor within six months that he is being pressed to be more forthcoming now. It is the critical test of the substance of "new" Labour.

THE TIMES DIARY

Cardinal error

ONE STEP ahead of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who arrives in Rome tomorrow, is John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC. He was in the Vatican over the weekend trying to strengthen links between the Roman Catholic establishment and new Labour.

This follows October's fiasco, when the Bishops' conference of England and Wales published *The Common Good and the Catholic Church's social teaching*, which some Labour Party members wrongly interpreted it as an endorsement of new Labour.

Cardinal Hume had to make it clear that the Catholic Church was not in the business of supporting particular political parties, while a gang of Scottish bishops, riled by Labour's hijacking of their support, purposefully distanced themselves from Tony Blair.

None of this seems to have deterred Monks. "Power and wealth make people insensitive to the needs of the weak and the poor," he told the cardinals. When he added, however, that "the Catholic Church shares our view that moral values do not end at the factory gate and office door," he was back on that tricky political terrain.

"Labour may agree with certain Catholic positions," said a leading Catholic priest in London, "but the Church does not share its views with Labour. This sucking up is going nowhere."

● *Make sure to highlight November 21 in next year's diary — World Television Day. This is a new, UNsupported scheme to have the whole world swapping television programmes for a day, for "the enhancement of cultural exchange". In short, we can watch soaps in Swahili, while the rest of the world gets Noel Edmonds. Sounds a fair deal.*

"I see a Camelot employee losing his bonus"

Palpable hit

ANOTHER triumph for Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman. He has just sent a begging letter to Councillor Percy Meyer, chairman of the Liberal Democrats in John Major's own constituency, Huntingdon.

"Dear Mr Meyer," writes Mawhinney, "You can provide us with an essential part of the Conservative election machine. A £20 donation goes straight towards communication to 4,000 people . . . Of course modern electioneering requires . . . targeted mailing."

Set apart

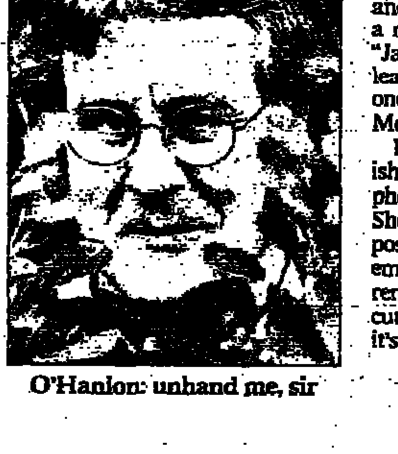
CLASS seems to have the upper hand over money in the new South Africa if the fortunes of Earl Spencer and Mark Thatcher — both recent immigrants to the country — are anything to go by. Thatcher has kept his head down, seems to have reconstructed his marriage and has been settling his turbulent financial affairs. Nevertheless, his entree into Cape Town society has been awkward and he has had a hard time joining the smarter clubs.

Compare Earl Spencer, who seems rarely to be out of the law courts. He is being sued for £22,000 by the husband of Chantal Callopy. Spencer's latest squeeze, for "enticement and alienation of affection". Last week his case against a nuisance paparazzo ended in a fudge, with the photographer claiming victory.

And the reward for all this mess? Spencer has been invited by Jane Raphaely, South Africa's leading publisher of women's magazines, and a hot curler in Cape Town society, to be a patron of the city's ballet company, and, hell, why not, the opera company too.

Fingered

ROLL OUT the rhinoceros hide for Redmond O'Hanlon, explorer and author of the forthcoming *Congo Journey*. He will soon be arriving in Britain with his lucky fetish: a child's finger wrapped in monkey skin. It was given to him by a fetishist in the Congo, and he now carries it with him everywhere.



O'Hanlon: unhand me, sir

It certainly seems to lend him an extra something, as shown when he appeared recently on a Dutch chat-show. Before going on, he found a short, balding man, fidgeting in the wings. Slinging an arm round his shoulder, he said: "Don't worry, old chap, performing in public gets easier with time." At which point the host announced, "Mr Phil Collins".

Tall story

INTO the Stafford Hotel, St James's, on Saturday night, loped Elle Macpherson, model and swimwear designer. With her head grazing the sports memorabilia which hangs from the bar's ceiling and walls, she was accompanied by a man who introduced himself as "James". Brawny of forearm and leathery of brow, he had the look of one familiar with mooring fees in Monte Carlo's harbour.

He was definitely not the Swedish banker with whom Miss Macpherson has recently been linked. She did little to dispel the supposition that models are a little empty upstairs with her opening remarks: "Wow, this place is so cute. So cute. Wow, I can't believe it's so cute."

P·H·S

Elle of a place

LABOUR AND ULSTER

A Blair Government would be preoccupied by Ulster too

As the briefest of glances at the memoirs of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan will confirm, Labour Governments have found themselves ensnared by the politics of Northern Ireland. For significant periods, both those Prime Ministers spent as high a proportion of their time on the province as John Major has given for at least the last three years. Were he to enter Downing Street, Tony Blair can expect to find himself facing similar challenges and spending considerable political capital on the same issue. It is a matter that should increasingly command his attention.

The Opposition has, so far, given commendably consistent support to the Prime Minister. Indeed bi-partisanship on the Ulster question has been stronger under Mr Blair than at any other time since his party left office 17 years ago. Labour has backed away from its position of the 1980s, when it favoured a united Ireland, albeit by consent, a stance that alienated the party from all Unionist opinion. The efforts of Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, and the lower profile work of others, such as Kate Hoey, have established a working relationship with David Trimble.

Mr Blair would be wise, however, to plan ahead. One of the disadvantages of bi-partisanship is that it serves to defer thinking within the Opposition party. The natural temptation is to allow the Government to make the political running and discourage innovation to avoid the appearance of a division between the two front benches. Labour gives the impression that it is content to allow Mr Major its encouragement and will wait and see what it inherits.

If so, Mr Blair may get a rude awakening. He is expecting his first year in power to be dominated by Scotland. He could discover Northern Ireland has that status. In its rejection of the Prime Minister's initiative last week, the IRA seems set to adopt a new strategy. While it may step up its campaign against what its leaders would describe as "military targets" in Ulster as well as searching for spectacular acts of terrorism on the mainland, a complete return to full-scale violence may await new governments in London and Dublin. Although Labour has done nothing to encourage this analysis, Sinn Fein clearly believes it possible that it might make a costless return to the negotiating table by threatening an incoming Prime Minister with all-out atrocities as an alternative.

The Labour leadership needs to remove any illusions that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness may entertain. That requires Tony Blair to associate himself directly with the affairs of Northern Ireland, and make clear where he stands. As part of that process, personnel issues need to be considered. Ms Mowlam has been an effective Ulster Shadow, but she could hold a number of portfolios in a Labour cabinet. A stronger signal would be sent if Mr Blair placed one of his most senior colleagues, and one of the few who have experience of serving in government, in that position. The figure who fits the bill is Dr Jack Cunningham, whose talents are presently under-deployed as Shadow Heritage Secretary. Dr Cunningham offers "listening to other people's opinions" as a recreation in his *Who's Who* entry. He would certainly get that opportunity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

None of this would spare a Prime Minister Blair the burdens of Ulster. At a meeting hosted by *The Times* two months ago, he pledged to match the attention paid by Mr Major to the peace process. In practice, that may prove a very difficult promise for him to keep. Nevertheless, he now needs to prepare himself for the very considerable energy that he would have to expend if he were Prime Minister a year from now.

DAY OF AIDS

Hope and fear march side by side

In a medical field where panic and paranoia have for more than a decade shaped political and scientific response, good news can be almost as deceptive. Drug companies have at last developed protease inhibitors that have shown dramatic results in reducing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to below detectable levels in the body. Aids has not been cured, though it may now be held in check. But few were celebrating this breakthrough on World Aids Day yesterday. For the global picture is as dark as ever.

More than 22 million people now suffer from Aids, the vast majority in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The infection rate in some countries is accelerating to epidemic proportion. India already has five million sufferers; within the next three years that figure may reach 50 million. In China, by contrast, there are still only 133 confirmed cases of full-blown Aids. But more than 5,000 people are HIV positive, and Chinese health officials fear that there will be more than a million sufferers by the year 2000. Elsewhere in Asia the figures are still rising inexorably: 50,000 cases have already been noted in Thailand; thousands of undeclared cases add to the high totals in Pakistan, the Philippines and Indonesia; and almost no Asian city is now immune. Brazil and central America are still recording increases. In Africa the pandemic has been exacerbated by war, famine, disease, ignorance and misgovernment. And in Uganda one in ten people is infected and the disease has reduced average life expectancy by 10 years.

For the foreseeable future, drug treatment will be beyond the budget of any Third World country. Even in the richer West, cost is a big deterrent. New therapies can cost up to £10,000 a year for each life prolonged. Aids campaigners point out that this compares well with the cost of breast screening at £19,000 per year of life prolonged or coronary bypass surgery at £73,000. In Britain, fewer sufferers have access to the new therapies than in France and most other Western countries.

The overriding priority of Western governments is the search for a vaccine, although the mutability of the virus and the many false starts are now pushing such a breakthrough further into the distance. For the moment, therefore, the condition can best be tackled by modifying the behaviour that leads to its incidence. This means a continuation of the forthright Aids education programmes, the campaign for safer sex, emphasis on the dangers of promiscuity and the attempt to prevent intravenous drug use.

Critics have derided such programmes as devoid of moral content and unnecessarily alarmist; yet the fact that in the West there has been no catastrophic acceleration in the incidence of Aids can only underline their effectiveness. And in Africa, where education alone is all that impoverished governments can afford, Church and community leaders are in no doubt that straight talk saves lives.

World Aids Day occasions the kind of exhuberant stunts, outrage and sentimentality that many see as distasteful. They point out that other diseases, equally deadly, do not generate such activism. That in itself is no reason to deride the commitment shown across the world yesterday. Aids still exacts a huge cost on emotions and resources. Awareness and responsibility are still the most effective weapons against this scourge.

NICK'S KNACK

Kensington Conservatives debate their troublesome member

The long-running saga concerning Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, may finally be settled tonight. Last year he narrowly survived a re-selection battle when locals charitably overlooked charges of drink driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving a child. Now Sir Nicholas will discover if being found face-down in the gutter after an Irish Embassy event at the Conservative Party conference was his last chance saloon. Scores of would-be alternatives are waiting in the wings.

The meeting will tell us much about modern Conservatives. In a touching display, some 120 fellow members of the Parliamentary Party have written in support of their embattled colleague, with some of Westminster's most senior grandees in the vanguard. Once that might have been enough to save a chap. But the Tories have long moved from the estates to the estate agents. The backing of the high and mighty could be thought a liability — though perhaps not in Chelsea, arguably the wealthiest constituency in Britain and certainly the most solidly Conservative. As a huge proportion of the 120 MPs are probably residents, their letter has more the character of a local petition than a missive from social superiors. Even Mikhail Lyubimov, former colonel in the KGB, has expressed his admiration for this leading light in the Tory Reform Group. No surprise there.

Even before his recent enthusiasm for studying pavement art at close quarters, Sir Nicholas had been a controversial figure. His admirers point out that *Time* magazine once described him as "a rising world leader". His detractors note sourly the same journal once named Adolf Hitler as its Man of the Year. He was a junior minister in Northern Ireland when the IRA escaped en masse on his watch. At Social Security he was judged a failure by the disabled and his own daughter.

The dogged fight he has put up is said to be motivated by a desire to retire early in the next Parliament and pass on his patch to Chris Patten. Conservative activists might wonder what part they were supposed to have in this rather cosy arrangement. Hong Kong may indeed be one of the few places on the planet with greater riches per square mile than Kensington and Chelsea. However, the Colony's practice of appointed members in its legislature is unlikely to be easily imported.

The constituency will now have its moment. On the one hand it faces a host of Conservative MPs, presumably motivated by the fear of a dangerous precedent, queuing up to endorse Sir Nicholas. On the other, is the knowledge that the incumbent is out of touch politically with most Tories, has proved a walking — well, staggering — embarrassment, and may try to hand his post over to one of his chums within months of polling day. The choice is for them. Most people outside West London will surely be wondering whether Sir Nicholas really can be the best that the safest Conservative seat in the country can offer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Police Bill 'would break Europe law'

From the Chairman of the British Legal Association

Sir, According to your report (November 29, later editions), under the provisions of the Police Bill, now before Parliament, the police will soon be able to eavesdrop on conversations between solicitors and their clients.

The European Court of Justice has held that the concept of legal professional privilege applies in EC law (see *A M & S Europe Ltd. v Commission* (1982) ECR 1575).

Regulation 17/62, Article 20, imposes a specific duty on the Commission and the competent authorities of the member states, their officials and other servants not to disclose information acquired by them as a result of an investigation pursuant to Regulation 17/62 "of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy".

This Government, which talks about upholding law and order, is again bent on breaking European law.

If the executive arm of the Government is able to eavesdrop, then lawyers may well have to adopt MI5 tactics by taking instructions from clients in museums and parks.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX ALAGAPPA,
Chairman,
British Legal Association,
4 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middlesex.
November 29.

From the Chief Executive of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service

Sir, On Monday the House of Lords will consider those parts of the Police Bill which will introduce a new criminal records agency. The agency will enable charities and organisations working with children and vulnerable adults to make criminal record checks on their volunteers.

The Bill does not make checks compulsory but organisations will come under pressure from trustees and insurers to be seen to be fulfilling their duty of care by running police checks.

It is quite wrong that volunteers who already give their time for nothing should be expected to pay the £5 to £10 which the Government now estimates the checks will cost.

Lord Weatherill, Lord Dubs, Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank and Lord Swinfen have tabled amendments which will ensure that criminal record checks on volunteers are free. We urge the Government to accept these amendments. If it does not, organisations like ours which depend on volunteers to carry out important work with children and vulnerable adults will face crippling bills which will seriously undermine our ability to deliver vital services.

Yours truly,
GERRY BURTON,
Chief Executive,
Women's Royal Voluntary Service,
234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9.
November 29.

Modern Russia

From Lord Bethell

Sir, It was always on the cards that Alexander Solzhenitsyn, that very brave and effective fighter against Soviet tyranny, would come to be a critic of today's Russian Government too. But in suggesting (report, November 28) that today's rulers are as immoral as the Soviets were and that they operate with the same impunity, protected by the same type of censorship, he goes way over the top.

The strongest piece of evidence against his thesis is the fact that he is physically able to put it forward. In the 1960s and early 1970s it was a criminal offence in the Soviet Union to possess anything that he wrote. He was harrassed, arrested, charged with treason and exiled.

Today he lives in well-deserved luxury at home in his beloved Russia with his family and supporters. He reviles the Russian media, but they give him generous space.

President Yeltsin has his faults, but it is one of his merits that he tolerates Mr Solzhenitsyn's harsh words. The previous rulers of Russia dealt differently with the problem that he presents.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BETHELL,
House of Lords.
November 28.

Record catch

From Mr Lynn Hughes

Sir, I am afraid I must disabuse you of the claim (report, November 21) that the 98lbs catfish caught by Mr Steve Bond is "a fish without precedent in the annals of British angling" (see also letters, November 25 and 26).

The fish caught on a rod and line by Alec Allen on the River Towy, at Nantgaredig in Carmarthenshire, on July 25, 1933, was the answer to any angler's prayer:

"... so big that even I ...
Will never need to lie."

It weighed 388lbs, a sturgeon that had to be transported from the river bank on a horse and cart. Now that really was a fish!

I remain, Sir,
yours sincerely,
LYNN HUGHES,
Dan-y-Bont,
Drefach, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.
November 26.

Museum admission charges raise variety of issues

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, The good things in life are not free, the treasures of museums and galleries included. Resources to run them and conserve their collections must be paid for by charging, voluntary donation or grant-in-aid. The argument for grant-in-aid is that benefits accrue to the nation, such as improving the quality of choice, in addition to what individuals are willing to pay voluntarily, but this hardly justifies that it should cover the full cost.

If targets are set for national institutions which imply that grant-in-aid is insufficient to meet them, then revenue must be raised elsewhere. But why not leave the directors of museums and galleries to take the initiative in deciding how the balance should be found in the light of the pattern of visitors that they are meant to attract?

This would go some way towards reconciling the various ideas about charges and payment that your correspondents (Arts, November 6; letters, November 21, 25, 28) have suggested, would encourage healthy competition between public and private museums and galleries and remind directors that the large stocks in some of their basements are not simply there to keep their peer-group researchers happy. Indeed, directors should be given more power over the amount and composition of their stock of artefacts, selling and buying in order to improve their service to the public.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146-4 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh 9.
December 1.

From Mr J. E. Blackwell

Sir, When I lived in London I was a devotee of the British Museum and I still regard it, in many ways, as my spiritual home. Since retirement I have become a member of the BM Society and occasionally lend a hand in one of the departments as an unpaid volunteer. However, I can see no moral justification for *not* charging admission fees, at least to adults.

Free admission is a valuable asset for anyone living or working in London, and I am sure many people will fight hard to hold on to their perquisite. But for people of moderate means who live in the provinces free access is of marginal value. For them the cost of any entrance fee is negligible compared with the cost of transport.

I am in favour of a substantial admission fee if this would allow the staff to make better use of the vast amount of material deposited in the museum.

The museum desperately needs more money to fulfil its functions, but let those who benefit directly help to pay.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BLACKWALL,
3 Prestbury Road,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.
December 1.

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, May I add one point to the debate on museum admission charges? It is that the more the funds raised by national institutions from private sources the greater the cut in government subvention.

Such a churlish policy by ministers underlines their own myopia and undermines the tireless work of the Trustees of the British Musuem and National Gallery in particular.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
Flat 1,
10 Bury Street, St James's, SW1.

From Professor D. M. Metcalf

Sir, In the articles and correspondence devoted to the British Museum's funding crisis, most attention has been paid to the question of entrance charges. The impact of possible staff reductions has not received the same consideration. Yet it is the expertise and skills of the staff which define how such an institution can deliver the services for which it exists, both to the general public, and to the academic community.

The value of the museum as an educational resource to the public, universities, schools, and learned societies depends on the endeavours of the keeper staff, many of whom become world-class authorities in their field. The impact of sudden, wholesale cuts would inevitably cause a loss of experience and expertise which would take decades to replace.

Entrance charges may be a tax on knowledge, but staff cuts would attack the foundations of that knowledge.

Yours truly,
D. M. METCALF
(President,
Royal Numismatic Society),
Wolfson College, Oxford.
December 1.

From Mr C. M. Woodhouse

Sir, In 1972, when Parliament considered legislation to impose admission charges at the British Museum, I asked the junior minister introducing the debate on the Bill in Committee "whether he contemplates with equanimity charging Greeks for looking at the Elgin Marbles" (HC Debates, col 1304, January 25, 1972). I received no reply either from him or from his Secretary of State. Charges were imposed, though they did not last very long.

I have no means of putting the question again today, but I hope someone else will.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. WOODHOUSE
(Conservative MP for Oxford,
1959-66 and 1970-74),
59 Pegasus Grange,
Whitehouse Road, Oxford.
November 25.

Aspirin and children

From the Director and Chief Executive of the Medicines Control Agency

Sir, I write to correct a serious misunderstanding which may have arisen from views expressed by Dr T. C. Dann (letter, November 27; see also report, November 23).

Aspirin was withdrawn from use in the treatment of children during the mid-1980s because of concerns about its significant association with Reye's syndrome, in which acute brain swelling complicated by liver failure is commonly fatal.

This action has saved lives, and parallel steps taken in the US have reflected the UK experience. All aspirin-containing products carry a label warning that they should not be used in children under 12 years.

The Medicines Control Agency's consultation on proposals to improve the product information and restrict availability of paracetamol makes it quite clear that in normal use paracetamol is an effective analgesic with an excellent safety record in adults, in children, in the elderly and in pregnant women. There is no reason why those who presently use paracetamol in the recommended dosages should switch to an alternative analgesic.

Whilst the death rate from aspirin overdose is lower than that associated with paracetamol, this is more likely a reflection of the lesser use of aspirin than of paracetamol in overdosage. It is to prevent those who might currently overdose on paracetamol from choosing in future to use aspirin that the Medicines Control Agency proposals encompass all solid-dose analgesics available over the counter.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JONES,
Director and Chief Executive,
Medicines Control Agency,
Market Towers,
1 Nine Elms Lane, SW8.
November 28.

From Dr Robert Rouse

Sir, It is suggested (letter, November 27) that paracetamol poisoning is rare in France because the French have "a culture which treats medicines with respect". They consume five times as many prescribed medicines per head as the British. Could it not be that they are simply too full to swallow anything more?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ROUSE,
Ty'n-y-Cae Eglwysbach,
Colwyn Bay, Conway.
November 27.

School league tables

From Dr Leslie Bather

Sir, Even the headmaster of such a distinguished school as Sherborne dislikes the publication of school performance tables (letter, November 23; see also letters, November 20 and 28), but there is ample evidence that they are helping to make most schools better.

Can it be a coincidence that since league tables were introduced one of the most popular topics for teacher and governor training has become "school improvement"? Or that many routine head teachers' meetings have been enlivened by a more urgent desire to discuss ways of improving the monitoring of levels of achievement and of raising standards?

Examination statistics can be misinterpreted and they do give only a partial picture of a school, but in recent years parents have been offered other new sources of information as well. Ofsted inspection reports and the now universal open evenings give everyone a chance to inquire about standards of teaching and of discipline, the quality of pastoral care, the importance attached to praise and encouragement, the impact of extra-curricular activities and much else that distinguishes the best from the worst schools.

In my experience the result is that parents as a whole are becoming better informed, more skilled in comparing schools and quicker to pick up how positive is the atmosphere in a school.

Not long ago it was common for many parents to assume that their child would simply go to the nearest school. That is happily no longer the case.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE BATHER
(Headmaster, Bishopshalt School,
Hillingdon, 1970-1996),
Glenariff, 33 Ripon Road,
Wallasey, Merseyside.
December 1.

Gas safety

From R. J. Simmons

Sir, Pensioners, we sit each night before a gas fire. British Gas already charge us over £100 each year to service the central heating. To look at our one small fire they ask another £40. It's a lot. We can't afford it.

Last year 63 people died (News in brief, November 28) because of faulty gas appliances and blocked chimneys. Many more were ill, but escaped. Should anyone be surprised?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. SIMMONS,
1 Cuthburga Road,
Wimborne, Dorset.
November 28.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

No charge

From Mr Quentin Langley

Sir, I greet the news "British Gas bills fiasco worsens" (report, Business, November 23) with somewhat mixed feelings. I would like to think that such a major enterprise is being properly run. But if they ever solve their problems, they will presumably get round to sending me a bill, for the first time since I had gas installed in 1990.

When I do receive a bill — and it really ought to follow fairly hard on your publication of this letter — I will be more than happy to pay for the gas I have used. However, I intend to dispute the standing charges. I see no reason to pay for the administration of an account that has plainly not been administered.

Yours sincerely,
QUENTIN LANGLEY,
55 Hillview Court,
Woking, Surrey.
November 25.

Fads and theories

From Mr J. B. Windle

Sir, How refreshing to read Simon Jenkins's article on management consultants and the recent book by Micklethwait and Wooldridge (November 23).

I am now retired, but spent much of my professional life working (quietly) in all kinds of organisations, offering no fads nor theories, and always setting out not only to make the patient well enough to survive, but fit enough to do so through his own strengths and talents.

The latest fad to catch Jenkins's eye — that of seeing a company as a biological entity — is particularly interesting to me. As "the outsider" going into what, in the early seventies, was called Rover-Triumph, my request for an internal assistant was met with: "Brad is ideal, although we're sorry, he's a graduate micro-biologist, not an engineer." Wonderful!

The first task I gave him was to write out that list of seven basic functions common to every living organism, and then examine a selection of departments against it.

Rover-Triumph — and Brad — did well during our years together.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. WINDLE,
Meadow Croft, 106 Station Road,
Burley in Wharfedale,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.
November 23.

Cheek to cheek

From Mr C. F. MacLaren

Sir, I remember twin seats in a cinema (letters, November 18, 21, 26) in central Glasgow in the very early 1930s.

I am now so old that I can no longer remember the name of the cinema, nor, indeed, can I remember why, at that time, I thought the twin seats were such a good idea.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN MacLAREN,
The Coach House,
Eye Park, Eye, Suffolk.
November 27.

From Mr David Scott-Gatty

Sir, At the cinema in Frizington, Cumberland, some 50 years ago, if one wished to occupy one of the double seats at the back, one asked for a "fortle". On the price list, a fauteuil was really quite expensive — half a crown at least.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SCOTT-GATTY,
Stonehouse,
Netherbury, Bridport, Dorset.
December 1.

Reverting to type

From Mr I. R. Lyon

Sir, I'm so glad that Mrs B. Keefe (letter, November 25), of the London College of Graphology, confirms my thoughts that handwriting can be studied to assess the psychological stability of the writer. I realised that many years ago and so bought a word processor.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LYON,
Eastone Grey,
Allenhayes Road, Salcombe, Devon.
November 26.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 30: The Duke of York today attended the celebrations to mark the return of the Stone of Destiny to Scotland and was received at the Palace of Holyroodhouse by the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Michael Forsyth MP) and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

His Royal Highness this morning attended a Service of Dedication for the Stone of Destiny in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.

The Duke of York this afternoon presented the Royal Warrant to the Commissioners of the Regalia of Scotland at Edinburgh Castle.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Luncheon at Edinburgh Castle given by the Secretary of State for Scotland to celebrate the return of the Stone of Destiny.

Birthdays today

The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 40; Sir Maurice Bathurst, QC, 83; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 78; Mr Timothy Boswell, MP, 54; the Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 65; Mrs Beryl Chitty, diplomat, 79; Professor Sir Alan Cook, FRS, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 74; Sir Frank Cooper, civil servant and company chairman, 74; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 87; Mr David Green, director, Voluntary Service Overseas, 48; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications, 49; General Alexander Haig, former American Secretary of State, 72; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, 63; Miss Patricia Hewitt, former deputy director, Institute for Public Policy Research, 48; Dr Gwyn Jones, BBC National Governor for Wales, 48; Sir George Labouchere, diplomat, 81; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, British Library, 51; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 67; Dame Winifred Prentice, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 86; Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 23; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 53; Mr Gianni Versace, fashion designer, 50.

Conservationist peer honoured

The Queen has appointed Lord Buxton of Alsa, a pioneering nature conservationist, to membership of the Royal Victorian Order. Lord Buxton has been a conservation adviser to the Duke of Edinburgh for more than 40 years and has travelled widely around the world with the Duke.

Lord Buxton, who lives at Stiffkey, north Norfolk, is a director of Anglia Television, where he pioneered the acclaimed *Survival* wildlife series.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a reception at the Garrick Club at 6.30 to mark the publication of a catalogue of the club's pictures.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Nortel, Maidenhead Office Park, Maidenhead, at 3.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the Olympic dinner at the British Museum at 8.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Listening Library, will attend the annual meeting at Skinners' Hall at 5.05.

The Duke of Kent will open the new army indoor tennis centre, Princes Avenue, Aldershot, at 5.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry Gally Knight, architect and writer, Langold, Yorkshire, 1786; Georges Seurat, painter, creator of Pointillism, Paris, 1859; Sir John Barbirolli, conductor, London, 1899; Maria Callas, soprano, New York, 1923.

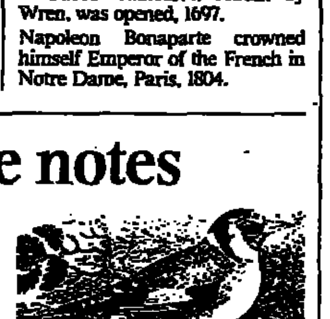
DEATHS: Hernán Cortés, conqueror of Mexico, Seville, 1547; Gerhardus Mercator, cartographer, Duisberg, Germany, 1594; Marquis de Sade, writer and adventurer, Charenton Asylum, Paris, 1814; Amelia Opie, novelist, Norwich, 1853; John Brown, militant abolitionist, executed, Charles Town, Virginia, 1859; Edmond Rostand, dramatist, Paris, 1918; Giles Cooper, playwright, Surbiton, Surrey, 1966; Stephen Potter, humorist, London, 1969; Philip Larkin, poet, Hull, 1985; Aaron Copland, composer, Westchester County, New York, 1990.

St Paul's Cathedral, rebuilt by Wren, was opened, 1697.

Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of the French in Notre Dame, Paris, 1804.

Nature notes

IF THE weather gets very cold after Christmas, many goldfinches will go south to Spain, but at present there are still plenty of them about. Some males are singing a subdued, whispering version of their summer song. Treecreepers are more noticeable now that most trees are bare: they climb with a jerky movement up the trunks, probing for tiny insects and their eggs, and carve out roosting holes for themselves behind the soft red bark of wellingtonias. Golden plovers have come down from the moors, and are feeding in flocks on lonely pastures: their plumage is duller than it was in summer, but there is still a hint of gold on their backs. Black-headed gulls sometimes try to rob them of the worms and beetles they pick up.



The goldfinch

Waterside trees are still quite green, especially weeping willows and sallows. Many birches lost their foliage early in the autumn, but some of the younger trees are still covered with lemon-yellow leaves. Thick swags of yellow needles also cling to the larches. In the mouths of some rabbit burrows, there are glittering yellow lines on the roof and sides: this is luminous moss, whose tiny leaves develop from those shining threads. DJM

Bernini's lost bust of King recaptured

By Isabel Carlisle

TWO plaster casts of the marble bust of Charles I, made by the great Italian sculptor Bernini and lost in the Whitehall palace fire of 1698, have been discovered.

The casts, one belonging to a British private collection and the other at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, had been long unregarded. One is pictured on the right.

The art historian Gudrun Raatschen describes in this month's issue of *The Burlington Magazine* her detective work that led to confirmation that they were taken from the original Bernini sculpture.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini was commissioned to make the bust by Queen Henrietta Maria in 1635. Because Bernini was unable to travel to London, the famous triple portrait of Charles I (now in the Royal Collection) was painted by Van Dyck and sent to Italy. It shows the king full face, in full profile on his right cheek and half profile on the left.

Bernini based his sculpture on the painting but made a number of small changes. From contemporary accounts he clearly regarded it as one of his masterpieces. He had cut the marble into such thin and delicate shapes that he was worried that details such as "the little lockes of hayre" would be damaged on the journey back to England.

Once it had safely arrived, plaster casts were made for artists, one ending up in the possession of Jonathan Richardson, who made drawings of it. These drawings were used by Ms Raatschen to identify the casts.

Photographs taken from the same angles as the Van Dyck triple portrait reveal how closely the painting and sculpture were connected. Charles's brushed-up moustache in particular has been faithfully copied by Bernini, down to the fan-like curls.

Other copies of busts of Charles I have been put forward in the past as candidates for the lost original. It has taken until now to establish what it really looked like.

The night sky in December

By Michael J Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

MERCURY is at greatest eastern elongation (20 degrees) on the 15th. It should be visible low in the southwest after sunset during the middle of the month when it will be setting up to an hour and a half after the Sun. As bright as -0.5 magnitude on the 15th, it will fade quickly later in the month. Crescent Moon to the north on the 12th.

Venus is a -3.9 mag morning star, a brilliant object in the southeastern dawn sky. It will be rising only two hours before the Sun by the 31st. Waning crescent Moon 2 degrees north on the 8th. Venus will be a few degrees north of the first magnitude star Antares on the morning of the 24th.

Mars moves into Virgo reaching 0.5 magnitude and rising before midnight by the 31st. Moon to the south on the 3rd-4th. Jupiter sets only an hour after the Sun by the end of the month. Moon to the north on the 12th.

Saturn is in Pisces and sets before 0h by the end of the year when it will be 1.0 magnitude. It reaches a stationary point on the 4th and then resumes direct eastward motion against the stars. Moon to the north on the 17th.

Uranus in Capricornus sets at 18h on the 31st. Moon to the north on the 13th. Neptune in Sagittarius sets by 17th 30m by the end of December.

The Moon: last quarter 3d 05h, new Moon 10d 17h, first quarter 17d 10h, full Moon 24d 21h. The Moon will be very close to the first magnitude star Aldebaran on the 22nd-23rd. The Earth: winter solstice 21d 14h.

Sunset on the 1st is at 15h 50m and on the 31st at 16h 00m while sunrise is at 07h 45m and 08h 08m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 17h 55m and 18h 05m early and late in the month and begins again at 05h 45m and 06h 05m.

Algol, the eclipsing variable star in Perseus, fades from 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours. It can be seen when faint about the following times: 3d 20h, 18d 04h, 21d 01h, 23d 22h and 26d 19h.

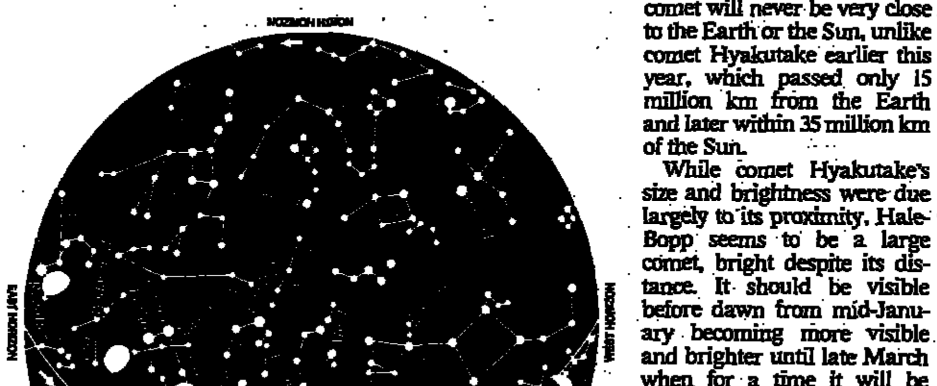
The Geminids meteor shower is the equal of the August Perseids but not as often seen because of poor weather and less pleasant observing conditions. While some meteors can be seen over the period December 9-15, the shower peaks this year on the night of the 13th-14th. The position of the radiant is shown on the monthly chart, just to the north of Castor. The Moon will be only three days old so will not interfere. More meteors should be seen later in the night as Gemini rises higher in the eastern sky. Some 60 or more per hour can be expected, with some bright "shooting stars" among them.

Comet Hale-Bopp has been visible in the evening sky in the Serpens-Ophiuchus area this autumn, moving slowly north just south of the celestial equator. In mid-November it was around 4th magnitude though it has not been an easy object to find in low power binoculars from light polluted sites, being rather compact and easily mistaken for a star. It will cross the celestial equator on December 6. This month it will be low in the western sky after dark but may be as bright as 3rd magnitude. How visible it will be at this time is impossible to forecast and depends very much on the clarity and darkness of the sky.

Comet Hale-Bopp has been a little fainter than expected this autumn but continues to look like a comet with the potential to put on a good display in the New Year. Current forecasts are for a maximum brightness 0 to 1 magnitude, which would make it comparable to Saturn in brightness rather than to Sirius or Jupiter as suggested by many astronomers earlier this year. However, even at 1 magnitude it would still be a very respectable object. Comet Hale-Bopp was still 3 astronomical units (AU) or 450 million km from the Earth and 360 million km from the Sun in mid-November. By April 1, 1997, when the comet is at perihelion, its closest to the Sun, it will be just inside the Earth's orbit at 0.91 AU or 136 million km from the Sun. Its closest to the Earth will be about March 20 at 1.32 AU or 198 million km. Thus the comet will never be very close to the Earth or the Sun, unlike comet Hyakutake earlier this year, which passed only 15 million km from the Earth and later within 35 million km of the Sun.

While comet Hyakutake's size and brightness were due largely to its proximity, Hale-Bopp seems to be a large comet, bright despite its distance. It should be visible before dawn from mid-January becoming more visible and brighter until late March when for a time it will be visible after sunset in the northwest, above the northern horizon during the night, rising higher again now in the northeast before dawn.

☐ *The Times Night Sky 1997* booklet contains monthly charts and notes on the year's events and important developments in astronomy and spaceflight. Published by Times Books; ISBN 0-7230-0879-5, £3.50 from bookshops or by post (add £1 p&p) from: Dept 9IM, HarperCollins Publishers, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 2QT, or by 24-hour order service: 0181-307-4052 quoting Dept 9IM (Mastercard & Visa only).



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer faces (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying text unless otherwise stated.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon Gavin Hamilton
and Miss H. Roskill
The engagement is announced between Gavin, eldest son of Lord and Lady Hamilton of Dalzell, of Betchworth, Surrey, and Harriet, younger daughter of Mr Thomas Roskill, of Brockhampton, Herefordshire, and Mrs Elizabeth Roskill, of Headington, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.G. Rich
and Miss L.A.J. Simmonds
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of the late Mrs R. Rich, of Wallingford, and Lucy, daughter of Commander and Mrs Peter Simmonds, of Rickmansworth.

Mr I. Stazicker
and Miss S. Reece
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs F. Stazicker, of Villelonge-dels-Monts, France, and Samantha, daughter of Colonel and Mrs M.J. Reece, of Scholar Green, Cheshire.

Mr N.F.A. Troth
and Miss A.C. Anderson
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Francis Andrew, third son of Dr and Mrs Harvey Troth, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Antonia Caroline, daughter of Mrs Philippa Anderson, of Domaine de la Marjolaine, Bagnols-en-Foret, France and the late Mr Bruce Anderson.

Mr D.J. Wheeler
and Miss A.E.L. Smith
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr Nick Wheeler, of Worcester, and Mrs Christine Hare, of Cradley, Worcestershire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Smith, of Eastbourne.

Marriages

Mr M.A. Biddle
and Lady Arabella Erskine
A service of blessing was held on Saturday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, after the marriage of Mr Mark Biddle, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Biddle, to Lady Arabella Erskine, younger daughter of the Earl and Countess of Buchan. The Rev Roger Holloway officiated.

A reception was held at the House of Lords.

The Hon R.T.A. Goff
and Miss C.L. Cregeen
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 30, at The Temple Church, London, of Thomas, only son of Lord and Lady Goff of Chieveley, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr Peter Cregeen, of Hawkley, Hampshire, and Mrs Jennifer Cregeen, of Frensham, Surrey. Canon J. Robinson officiated, assisted by Canon C.T. Scott-Dempster.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Wendy Barratt, Emily Southward, Clare Barratt, Anna Jackson and Jack Barratt. Mr David Cameron and Mr Toppo Todhunter were best men.

A reception was held at the Inner Temple Hall and the honeymoon will be spent in the South Pacific.

Mr N.D. Crowley
and Miss A.A. Calinescu
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 30, at Little Hempston, Devon, between Mr Nicholas David Crowley, son of Commander and Mrs David Crowley, of Sparkwell, Devon, and Miss Alexandra Adela Calinescu, eldest daughter of Mrs Eileen Calinescu, of Cambridge.

Service dinners

35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
The Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress of Birmingham and Brigadier J.H. Griffin, Commander Communications Headquarters Land, were the guests at the annual officers' dinner of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held on Saturday at Birmingham Council House. Lieutenant-Colonel R.M. Thurston, Royal Signals, presided. Brigadier I.A. Sim, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, also spoke.

No 2 Welsh Wing ATC
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lady Willis were guests of honour at the annual dinner of No 2 Welsh Wing ATC held at Bryn Cregin Hotel, Deganwy, North Wales, on Saturday. The Commanding Officer, Wing Commander M.N. Richards, and Mrs Richards were present. Squadron Leader T. Foley presided.

TA Airborne Officers and HQ 5 AB Brigade
General Sir Roger N. Wheeler was the principal guest at a dinner held on Saturday. Other guests were Brigadier Richard Holmes and Mr Rupert Allason, MP. Lieutenant-Colonel Eric F. Kolin presided.

Dinners

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
The Duchess of Gloucester was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists held on Friday, November 29, at the College. Dr Naren Patel, President of the College, and Dr Helen Patel received the guests. Mr John Mortimer, QC, replied to the toast to the guests. The other guests included:
Mr George Borthwick, Dr Michael Brindle, Professor Sir Norman Browse, Sir Kenneth Calman, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Dr June Crown, Baroness Cumberlege, Sir William Doughty, Dr Peter Enoch, Dr Stuart Fair, Miss Caroline Flint, Dr Christopher Harling, Baroness Hayman, Mr Ken Jarrold, Dr Betty Kershaw, Mrs Ann Luther, Mr John Lewellyn Williams, Dr Alexander Macara, Professor Norman MacKay, Professor Roderick MacSween, Dr Jeremy Metters, Dr John Modle, Mr Colin Morgan, Mr Bruce Noble, Dr Bridget Ogilvie, Sir Christopher Paine, Sir Keith Peters, Professor George Radda, Mr Geoff Scaife, Sir Rodney Sweetnam, Professor John Temple.

Stonyhurst Association
Father Michael O'Halloran, SJ, was the guest of honour at the Stonyhurst Association's dinner held on Saturday at the Assembly Rooms, Bath. Mr Michael Gorman, chairman, presided. Mr A.J.F. Aylward, Headmaster of Stonyhurst College, also spoke.

Association of Old Brightonians
Lord Skidelsky, FBA, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Association of Old Brightonians held on Saturday at Brighton College. Rear-Admiral P.G.V. Dingemans, president, was in the chair. Mr J.D. Leach, Headmaster of Brighton College, also spoke.

The Old Latymerian Association
The Annual OLA Dinner was held at Latymer Upper School, W6, on Friday, November 29, with Professor Alan Mumford in the Chair. Principal guests included The Headmaster, Mr C. Diggory and Mr W. Emmott, Editor of *The Economist*, who proposed the toast to the School and the Association.

Latest wills

Jean Story Tatham, of Kirklinton, Carlisle, left estate valued at £1,068,865 net. She left all her estate to be divided between various charities.

Kenneth Ellison Horne, of Boughton, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £5,475,222 net.

Peter Allen Holt, of Oakham, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £1,809,869 net. He left seven and a half parts of his estate to be shared between the British Red Cross and Marie Curie Cancer Care, plus two and a half parts to Whissendine Parish Church.

Judith Craig Bell-Greene, of Hambledon, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,447,282 net.

Mollie Gordon Smith, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,582,368 net.

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I pine and faint with longing for the courts of the Lord's temple; my whole being cries out with joy to the living God. Psalm 84 : 2

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OBITUARIES

TINY TIM

Tiny Tim, American popular singer, died of an apparent cardiac arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 30 aged 74. He was born in New York on April 12, 1922.

Cutting a bizarrely unlikely figure in the steamy ethos of the pop music business, Tiny Tim made his name by cultivating an image of childlike innocence at a time when rock 'n' roll culture had as its exemplars such rough beasts as Mick Jagger, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. Indeed, the single song *Tiptoe through the Tulips* on which, effectively, he constructed the entire edifice of his career, was a piece of extraordinary schmaltz which, with touching courage, set itself against the mores of that progressive decade the Sixties.

While the rest of the brave new world gloried in having achieved cynicism, streetwisdom and sexual sophistication, Tiny Tim constructed a stage persona that was touchingly naive, avowedly asexual and even a trifle right of centre politically. Flying in the face of the prevailing iconoclasm of the age, he spoke with respect of Christianity, of America's involvement in Vietnam, and of chastity in marriage. When he married his child-bride Vicki Budinger in front of a television audience of 40 million on the Johnny Carson show in 1969 Tim stressed to viewers that the laws of Christianity, not carnal appetites, would govern their union and that sex was the last thing on his mind. The toast to the bride was made not in the traditional champagne but with a mug of wholesome milk and honey.

Alas, both his first marriage and his career were to be evanescent affairs. By the dawn of a new decade, the Seventies, both had peaked. One moment he was making $50,000 a year, the next he was in the wilderness, his falsetto voice, with its endearing knack of rendering worse even the most appalling of lyrics, a thing of memory.

Tiny Tim was born Herbert Kauhry, on West 81st Street, Manhattan. His father was a Lebanese textile worker, his mother was Jewish. As a child he was an oddity. Ostracised by the children on his block, he took solace in singing at school. His favourite song, even as a small child, was a 1917 recording of Henry Burr singing *Beautiful Ohio*.

After he left school he performed in amateur shows before drifting down to the gay clubland of Greenwich Village. There, in the late Forties and early Fifties, long before long hair became *de rigueur*, he cultivated an uncontrolled shaggy mop which he teamed with flowing jackets and trousers. He always claimed to have "tried to join the Army at least eight times during World War II, but couldn't pass the written test". It was a claim about which the world was inclined to be charitable.

He did actually possess a decent tenor voice, but it was when he went falsetto that he began to be noticed, playing at now-defunct Village clubs such as Page Three, under the stage name "Larry Love, the Singing Canary".

The title "Tiny" was bestowed, as such things so often are, by accident and in a moment of irony. In 1965, as he was shambling out of a New York night spot whose management had decided that his lanky 6ft 1in figure and bizarre clothes did not "fit", a voice from the audience called out "Hey Tiny, do us a set". Kauhry returned, performed and from that moment grew swiftly to fame as Tiny Tim.

The precise reason for his success is difficult to analyse. True, his warbling falsetto seemed to represent a single-handed cultural attack on the prevailing rough-and-tough atmosphere of rock 'n' roll. But that alone would not have guaranteed him success, much less fame, without the dottily naive image he purveyed both on stage and on television. He made the most of appearances on shows such as *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in* which gave him the coast to coast coverage which is the *sine que non* of popular success in America. *Tiptoe through the Tulips*, which he recorded in 1968, was a smash hit and from that moment until the bubble of his fame burst two years later, he was a national icon.

The success owed much to his ability to explore — and exploit — a vein of nostalgia for which Middle America always has a soft spot. His crooned versions of the old ballads recalled the age of the crank-handle gramophone, crinolines and warm nights on Southern porch steps. His first album of old-fashioned favourites, *God Bless Tiny Tim*, sold 100,000 copies in the first week of its release.

In the teeth of the Sixties, in that *annus mirabilis* of flower power, 1968, he was able to pack America's palace of rock, San Francisco's Fillmore Stadium, for his act. Astonishingly, this aging envoy of Twenties' and Thirties' singsongs was given a delirious reception by a generation which had been born long after the melodies he gave them had faded from the airwaves.

But the sceptical Seventies were not kind to Tiny Tim. The gimmick — if gimmick it was — could not be sustained at that level of intensity. The appetite for nostalgia seemed to collapse overnight and Tiny Tim was left at the end, as he had been at the beginning, peddling his act round third rate clubs, even entertaining parties of drunks on offshore cruise ships. As he struggled to keep his head above water he drank increasingly heavily and suffered from severe diabetes. Already suffering from congestive heart failure, he had collapsed and fallen from the stage at a ukelele festival in Massachusetts in September, and seriously injured himself.

His first marriage ended in divorce, as did his second. He is survived by his third wife, Sue, and by the daughter of his first marriage.

ITHIER DE ROQUEMAUREL

The Marquis Ithier de Roquemaurel, French publisher, died in Paris on November 4 aged 82. He was born in Villetoureix, Dordogne, on September 15, 1914.

A DESCENDANT of Louis Hachette, the founder of the French publishing house in 1826, Ithier de Roquemaurel was known as the aristocrat of the French publishing and press worlds. Under him, Hachette became a dominant force in books, newspapers and their distribution. But it was his lavish country-house entertainment of France's political and literary élite which led one editor to describe him as a "modern Duc de Guermantes", a reference both to de Roquemaurel's love of Marcel Proust and to his manner.

In the 1960s and 1970s, de Roquemaurel expanded Hachette's book and distribution activities beyond France's borders, while at the same time helping Pierre Lazareff create a postwar press empire around *France Soir*, the Paris evening newspaper, and *Elle* magazine, which broke all traditions and records in the women's market.

Later Roquemaurel was cofounder of *Le Point*, the news weekly which was to shock the French political world by calling for the resignation of then Gaullist Premier, Pierre Messmer.

Ithier de Roquemaurel studied at the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris before taking over the family's printing businesses. From there, he moved to Librairie Hachette as board member, deputy chairman and then head of the company in 1967.

Hachette's postwar power arose because it controlled both the ownership and the distribution of its newspapers. The dominant editorial force was Pierre Lazareff, who had returned from the United States in 1945, gathered about him young Resistance journalists and created *France Soir* from the ashes of the collaborationist *Paris Soir*. By 1958 *France Soir* was selling close to two million copies each evening in the Paris region.

The political élite, if not lunching on Sundays with the Lazareffs at Louveciennes, outside the capital, was hunting with the Roquemaurels at Nangis in the Seine-et-Marne, where the livery of the staff outshone the finery of the guests.

Those guests included Presidents Pompidou, Giscard d'Estaing and Mitterrand. The last was never to forget the help he had received at the outset of his parliamentary career from the de Roquemaurel family, who had befriended him as a young politician and backed him during his successful 1946 election campaign as a rightwinger. The patronage later paid off in 1981 when Mitterrand, by then President, expressly omitted Hachette from the sweeping nationalisation programme of the incoming Socialist government.

De Roquemaurel transformed Hachette from a family concern to one with an international reach. But the balance of power changed with a second postwar revolution in the French press in 1976, when the Prouvost empire, based on the weekly *Paris Match*, broke up with Hachette.

De Roquemaurel left the Hachette chairmanship to return to his estates to live the life, as a friend remarked, of someone who had stepped straight from a novel. Literature rather than balance sheets were discussed at château weekends. The Marquis, however, had earlier adapted to a changed world by signing a magazine deal with Disney. This coincided with the transformation of one of Proust's old haunts, the Café d'Angleterre on the Boulevard Hausmann, into a McDonald's.

One of his two sons continues the family tradition as vice-president of Hachette-Filipacchi Presse and his daughter, the Comtesse Florence Terray, is also in magazines. Ithier de Roquemaurel was predeceased by his wife.

JOHN MacDOUGALL

John MacDougall, chairman of the Kennel Club, 1981-96, died on November 7 aged 71. He was born on February 18, 1925.

ALTHOUGH a surgeon by profession, John MacDougall had a strong interest in pedigree dogs, particularly poodles, which he and his wife had bred and shown for many years. For a time he was secretary of the poodle council, but it was as chairman of the Kennel Club, a post in which he served for 15 years, that he made his greatest contribution to the canine world.

At a time when the keeping of pedigree breeds was increasing in popularity, MacDougall played a central role in the Kennel Club. He oversaw a rewriting of its constitution and was a stickler for good sportsmanship at competitions. He represented the Kennel Club on the issue of quarantine, which he hoped would eventually be abolished.

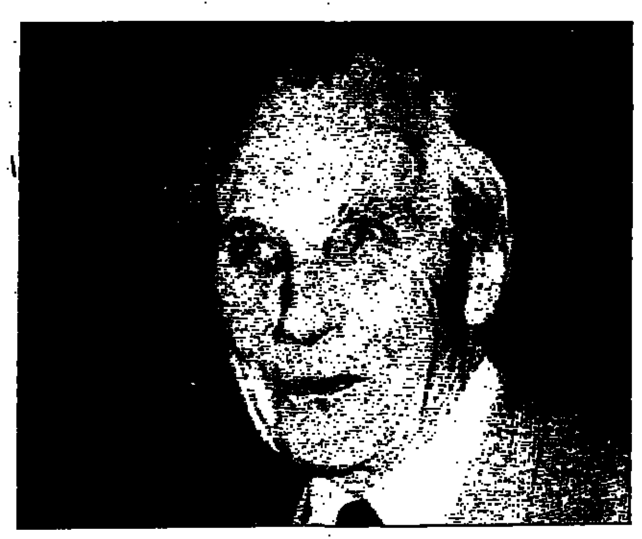
MacDougall helped to develop the Kennel Club Junior Organisation and oversaw the building and staffing of a library, now the largest specialised canine library in Europe. He also helped to initiate the good citizen dog scheme, to encourage dog owners to train their pets to acceptable standards of behaviour, as well as establishing a Kennel Club charitable trust whose objects included the support of canine rescue, the training of dogs to help disadvantaged human beings and the funding of research to advance scientific knowledge concerning dogs and their diseases.

John Arnott MacDougall was educated at City of London School from where he won an open scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to read natural sciences. He was a keen sportsman who at school had been recorded in Wisden for making a century, and he represented his university at squash and Eton Fives.

On completing his degree he went on to study medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London, holding various house appointments there and serving as a senior registrar before, in 1962, going to Wolverhampton where he worked as a consultant surgeon to the area health authority. He was responsible for developing a department of urology and he was to become senior surgeon and consultant urologist to the Wolverhampton District Health Authority and visiting surgeon to the West Midlands Spinal Injuries unit, Oswestry.

When he was elected to the unpaid executive role of chairman of the Kennel Club in 1981, the Clarges Street offices were not large enough to be able to deal with the documentation necessary for the registration and transfer of pedigree dogs and the licensing of thousands of competitive canine events. He helped to bring about a modernisation of the club's operations and to provide an efficient service now registering some 250,000 dogs a year. The computer system now contains a database of some four million dogs and is responsible for the compilation of five-generation pedigrees, the annual stud book and Crufts catalogues. He also oversaw the relocation of Crufts, the world's largest dog show, from London to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

He is survived by his wife Daphne and by their two daughters.



MARGARET POLLARD

Margaret Pollard, Sanskrit scholar and Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, died in Truro on November 13 aged 93. She was born on March 1, 1903.

IN A life of occasionally eccentric but always intense intellectual and crusading activity, Margaret Pollard worked tirelessly for the preservation of both the terrain and the culture of her beloved Cornwall. She learnt its long extinct language, familiarised herself with its medieval literature and participated in its bardic ceremonies. Through donations organised among a mysterious group of benefactors known as Ferguson's Gang, she enabled the National Trust to make a number of purchases of land and notable buildings in the county, thus saving them from the disfiguring ravages of modern development.

Finally, she wrote one of the best single-volume works on Cornwall, England's unique Celtic outpost, with its hard-favoured, rain-swept landscape, whose trees are perpetually hunched against the Atlantic gales.

She was born Margaret Steuart Gladstone, the daughter of John Steuart Gladstone and a great-niece of the Liberal statesman. Her father sent her to a dame school in Folkestone, intending, it would seem, that this should be the sum total of her education. If so, he had miscalculated since she inherited his interest in Hindu gods, and after he died in 1920 she went up to Newnham College, Cambridge. There, in !924, she became the first woman to gain first-class honours in the Oriental Languages Tripos Part I (Sanskrit) and Part II (Pali).

She received her PhD in 1952 and published a number of articles on Sanskrit. In addition to Sanskrit and Cornish, Russian was another language of which she had absolute mastery and she published several articles on Eastern Christian texts.

At St Margaret's, Westminster, in 1928 she married a Cambridge friend, Frank Pollard, later known as "Cap'n Pollard". They moved to a two-bedroomed terrace house in Truro, where he lived upstairs and she lived downstairs, each enjoying the sound of the other laughing as they read. They had no children, and she soon became well known as the "strangely dressed lady devoted to goats".

For 14 years she was Cornish secretary to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Those were the days when the first bungalows were beginning to threaten the austere beauty of Cornwall's majestic granite cliffs. In order to play her part in countering this vandalism, Peggy Pollard joined Ferguson's Gang, a band of anonymous donors to National Trust funds, whose operations were cloaked in a garb of the utmost secrecy. A heavily disguised — usually masked — member of the gang would descend on the National Trust's London office with a bag full of money, leaving only a pseudonym, generally one redolent of Cornwall's smuggling past. Peggy's *nom de guerre* was Bill Stickers; she never knew who Ferguson was.

The donations were sometimes recorded in song, and Peggy undoubtedly wrote the ditty *Up on the Cliffs of Mayon Castle* which celebrates the purchase, in 1935, of the Trust's first holding at Land's End: 39 acres at Mayon Castle.

The Mayon Castle purchase included the rock just off the coast known as the Irish Lady, where the ghost of a drowned Irishwoman appears in stormy weather, with a rose in her mouth by day and a lantern in her hand at night. When Peggy was made a bard of the Cornish Gorsedd on Bodmin Moor in 1938, she took Arlodhes Ywerdhon — "The Irish Lady" — for her bardic name, and became the Gorsedd harpist.

When publishers were cheering up the reading public with inexpensive illustrated books soon after the war, Paul Elek issued his Vision Of England series, for which Peggy Pollard wrote *Cornwall* (1947), illustrated by Sven Berlin. It remains one of the best — and is certainly the funniest — portraits of the Duchy, capturing, as it does, the habits of mind and speech of Cornwall's instinctively ironical inhabitants.

For a while she was active in the life of Truro Cathedral and was even for a period secretary to Bishop Hunkin. But in 1947 she became a Roman Catholic. She was a prime mover in building a new Catholic church for Truro, Our Lady of the Portal and St Piran. It was opened in 1973, and she is generally believed herself to have acquired the site, where the medieval chapel of Our Lady of the Portal had stood.

Ferguson's Gang left its mark on the Guild of Our Lady of the Portal which Pollard organised in the 1960s. Its members were known by numbers only (she was Sister 10.) They said the Rosary in pairs on the telephone every evening, and at a given hour practically all the lines to West Cornwall would be jammed by Hail Marys at the given hour, a most unusual occurrence in this otherwise strongly Methodist county.

In her seventies, she began translating from Church Slavonic, especially akathist hymns (the Eastern Orthodox Church's sublimely beautiful songs of praise to the Mother of God). She was even able to find one for Our Lady of the Portal. Some were printed by the Society of St John Chrysostom.

She composed singable, not to say witty, hymns in Latin, Cornish, and English. Her pastiche of medieval Cornish miracle plays, *Bewnans Alizarin* (1941), is the best and most extended joke yet made in Cornish.

In Truro itself she was, perhaps, best known for her embroidery and tapestry work. The *Guinness Book of Records* mentioned her runner embroidered with pictures of C. S. Lewis's Narnia stories: the tapestry is 1,338 feet long.

Long after her sight had gone, she went on tirelessly collecting for black nuns in South Africa (who called her Mah). To celebrate her 80th birthday she led 40 parishioners to the shrine of the Fourteen Holy Helpers at Vierzehnheiligen in southern Germany. This medieval Bavarian devotion seemed perfectly natural to her.

Even before the Cap'n died in 1968 she began giving away her worldly goods and was ultimately reduced to living in one room whose cheerful squalor she stoutly defended against callow and pedestrian criticism. How much money she gave away no one will ever know. Her sense of humour was earthy, her chuckle more like a stomach rumble. Eccentric she may have been, but she was also fiercely rational and widely loved.

Three days before she died she was, at last, too tired to finish the telephone rosary with Brother 15. They had said it daily for 35 years.

University news

Oxford
JESUS COLLEGE
Elections

To Open Scholarships: Michael Beadle (formerly of King's School, Chester), Alan Boyce (Boston Grammar School, Lincs), Richard Bull (Bablake S, Coventry), Stephen Chewter (Tonbridge S, Kent), Jessica Collins (Westminster S, London), Kate Frost (Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, Kent), Bernhard Fulda (Aloisiuskolleg, Germany), Aliza Gaon (Withington Girls, Manchester), Claire Gifford (Hills Rd Sixth Form College, Cambridge), Angus Halkett (Winstanley C, Wigan), Joanna Hillard (Wycliffe C, Gloucester), Robert Hinch (Hills Rd Sixth Form C, Cambridge), Alison Hullah (Aylesbury High School), Shona Jacobsberg (Hills Rd Sixth Form C, Cambridge), Halima-Noor Khan (Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree), Claire Lewis (Ursuline Conv High School, Brentwood), James Norman (Hampton S, Middlesex), Matthew Peacock (King Edward's S, Birmingham), Benjamin Preston (Clifton C, Bristol), Jonathan Rose (Manchester GS), Nicholas Scola (Reading S), Andrew Tolley (Newcastle-under-Lyme S, Staffs), Emma Vardy (Haberdashers' Aske's S, Elstree), Neil Walker (John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe).

To a Meyricke Scholarship: Siwan Davies (Ysgol y Preseli, Crymych, Dyfed).

To Dehqani-Tafti Travel Scholarships: Rebecca Dalton (Talbot Heath S, Bournemouth), Benjamin Frost (Lawnswood HS, Leeds), Glen O'Hara, BA.

To a Dehqani-Tafti Memorial Scholarship: Rhys ap Gwilym (Westminster S, London).

To Graduate Scholarships: Julian Addison, BA, Jerome Bhat, BA, Nicholas Gardner, BA, Glen O'Hara, BA, Einir Price, BA.

To the Old Members' Graduate Scholarship: Peter Chew, MSt (School for Slavonic and East European Studies).

To the Overseas Graduate Scholarship: Christina Bordea (University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Gr. T. Popa" Iasi).

To the Jesus College Graduate Scholarship: Steven Casey.

To Meyricke Graduate Scholarships: Gordon Campbell (St Davids Univ C), Manon Phillips (Univ of Wales, Bangor).

To a Meyricke Exhibition: Johanna Waters (Gorseinon C, Swansea).

To Old Members' Exhibitions: Ieuan Adams (Afan C, Port Talbot), Rebecca Murphy (Hills Rd Sixth Form C, Cambridge), Mae-Jean Poh (Hwa Chong Jun College, Singapore).

To a Kolkhorst Exhibition in Spanish: Alistair Phelps (Downside S, Bath).

To Open Exhibitions: Stephen Conway (St Mary's Sixth Form C, Middlesbrough), Rebecca Dalton (Talbot Heath S, Bournemouth), Jennifer Downes (Perse S, Cambridge), Christopher Evans (Monkton Combe S, Bath), Gareth Jones (K Edward VI HS, Lichfield), Jane Labous (Anglo-European S, Ingatestone), Owain Morgan (Lancaster RGS), Thomas Mason (Bingley GS, West Yorkshire), Andrew McKnight (St Olave's GS, Kent), Claire Poulter (Perse S, Cambridge), Ellen Saunders (Millfield S), James Smith (Dr Challoner's GS, Bucks), Andrew Ward (St Bede's C, Manchester), Nathanael Wei (Sir Frank Markham Comm S, Milton Keynes).

Queen's University, Belfast
Elections to Senate

Professor Norma Dawson, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Professor Robert Stout, Provost of the College of Health Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, have been elected by the Academic Council to the Senate.

ON THIS DAY

December 2, 1942

The report by Sir William (later Lord) Beveridge (1879-1963) with its goal to defeat "Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness" is the foundation of the welfare state (he called it the "social service state"). It was a best-seller: 635,000 copies were sold.

THE BEVERIDGE REPORT

Comprehensive Scheme of Social Insurance

The first task of the Committee, as stated in Part I, has been to attempt for the first time a comprehensive survey of the whole field of social insurance and allied services, to show just what provision is now made and how it is made, for many different forms of need. The picture presented is impressive in two ways.

First, it shows that provision for most varieties of need through interruption of earnings and other causes has already been made in Britain on a scale not surpassed and hardly rivalled in any other country of the world. In one respect only of the first importance — namely, limitation of medical service, both in the range of treatment which is provided out of right and in respect of the classes of persons for whom it is provided, does Britain's achievements fall seriously short of what has been accomplished elsewhere.

Second, social insurance and the allied services as they exist today are conducted by a complex of disconnected administrative organs, proceeding on different principles, doing invaluable service but at a cost in money and trouble and anomalous treatment of identical problems for which there is no justification . . .

Thus, limitation of compulsory insurance to persons under contract of service and below a certain remuneration if engaged on non-manual work is a serious gap . . . There is no real difference between the income needs of persons who are sick and those who are unemployed, but they get different rates of benefit, involving different contribution conditions and with meaningless distinctions between persons of different ages.

There are three different means tests for non-contributory pensions, for supplementary pensions, and for public assistance, with a fourth test — for unemployment assistance — differing from that for supplementary pensions. It is not open to question that, by closer co-ordination, the existing social services could be made at once more beneficial and more intelligible to those whom they serve and more economical in their administration.

Three guiding principles of recommendations are laid down. The first is that any proposals for the future, while they should use to the full the experience gathered in the past, should not be restricted by consideration of sectional interests . . . The second principle is that organisation of social insurance should be treated as one part only of a comprehensive policy of social progress. Social insurance fully developed may provide income security: it is an attack upon want. But want is one only of five giants on the road to reconstruction and in some ways the easiest to attack. The others are disease, ignorance, squalor, and idleness.

The third principle is that social security must be achieved by cooperation between the State and the individual. The State should offer security for service and contribution. The State in organising security should not stifle incentive, opportunity, responsibility: in establishing a national minimum it should leave room and encouragement for voluntary action by each individual to provide more than that minimum for himself and his family . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

NEWS

Children win in Labour lottery

■ Talented youngsters will receive special funds to assist their development and turn them into the "Nobel Prize winners of the future" under radical plans by the Labour Party to be unveiled today for reshaping the National Lottery.

A Labour government would set up a new "stream" of lottery money with the funds dedicated to children and young people through the financing of specialist projects .... Page 1

Meningitis kills two students

■ Hundreds of students were given emergency vaccinations against meningitis after an outbreak of the disease claimed a second life. A 19 year-old pharmacy student from the University of Wales in Cardiff died 27 hours after being taken ill. She lived in University Hall, close to a first-year law student, also 19, who died on Thursday .... Page 1

Tax rumpus

An admission by William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, that the average family was paying about £50 a year more in direct taxes than in 1992 has undermined the Tory claim to be a tax-cutting party, Labour said .... Pages 1, 2

Artistic legacy

Sir Denis Mahon, one of the country's foremost art history scholars, is to bequeath arguably the world's finest collection of 17th Century Italian baroque paintings to the nation. But the works will be withdrawn if the Government fails to meet his tough criteria on funding museums and galleries .... Page 1

Police reprimanded

Two police officers who declined to shoot a man brandishing a gun in the street have been reprimanded .... Page 3

School fears

Local authority leaders urged ministers to legislate to prevent parents from suing schools if two former pupils win damages for negligence against schools which inspectors said had failed Page 4

Chunnel evacuation

Eurotunnel staged a full-scale mock evacuation of a crowded Eurostar passenger train deep in the Channel Tunnel in an attempt to convince safety authorities that it can be reopened to scheduled services .... Page 5

Christian millennium

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has bowed to pressure from the Prince of Wales and Archbishop of Canterbury and agreed that the millennium should be an essentially Christian event .... Page 8

Bad drivers

The average British motorist is careless, aggressive and makes about 50 serious blunders each week, according to a survey of driving habits .... Page 9

Belgrade warning

Serbia's Interior Ministry said it would no longer tolerate "any element of violence" as up to 100,000 demonstrators demanding the resignation of President Milosevic took to the streets of Belgrade .... Page 10

Costly strike

France's road system slowly returned to life as the country began to assess the economic damage caused by the 12-day lorry drivers' strike .... Page 11

Bangui curfew

President Patasse of the Central African Republic imposed a curfew on the capital, Bangui, as fighting between mutinous army units and French-backed government troops escalated ..... Page 12

Okinawa cutbacks

The United States is sharply cutting back its military presence in Okinawa .... Page 13

Eye tooth to restore sight

■ A blind man has had a tooth transplanted into his cheek to help to restore his sight. The second stage of the operation will move the tooth into his eye and drill a hole in its centre to support a plastic "window" to replace a damaged cornea. Bhimji Varsani, 61, from north London, underwent the first stage at Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton .... Page 6

JOHN HOULIHAN

Graham Restarick, a Lake District Seasonal Ranger, on Helvellyn yesterday during his daily climb to check weather conditions

BUSINESS

Mortgages rise: Abbey National will raise its mortgage rate to new borrowers by a quarter point this morning, having decided there was no longer any point in waiting after the Budget .... Page 48

Primary colours: Business people regard Tory blue as the colour most associated with professionalism, trustworthiness and efficiency, according to a promotional survey. Most associated John Major with grey. Michael Heseltine rated blue .... Page 48

Opportunity knocks: Companies participating in John Major's opportunity 2000 initiative to encourage better use of women in top management now have three times as many in top executive posts as other organisations .... Page 48

Circus of the imagination: Jean Baptiste Thierrée and Victoria Chaplin completely redefine the meaning of the word circus in their brilliant new show at the Mermaid Theatre in London .... Page 18

High notes: English National Opera revives Bizet's early opera *The Pearl Fishers*, with a strong cast who make the most of the great tunes .... Page 18

Here's to Auntie: The BBC may be a national punchbag, and it sometimes deserves a thump or two. But, writes Melvyn Bragg, it is also a national asset .... Page 19

New role: Larry Lamb talks about being the unlikely star of *Nine*, the Fellini musical that comes to London more than a decade after winning the Tony Award .. Page 19

Total control: Barbra Streisand on why she directed her new film and how she always checks out a new man with his mother .... Page 15

Cursed city: In the drug-blighted city of Svetlogorsk, one in 20 of the population is expected to die of Aids .... Pages 16, 17

Beating the bugs: After the meningitis and food poisoning tragedies in Wales and Scotland, Anjana Ahuja explains how such outbreaks are controlled .... Page 14

Charter Marks: The awards mark the only occasion when the quality of public services is acknowledged nationally .... Pages 39-41

IN THE TIMES

■ MAN OF ART
Howard Hodgkin is recognised around the world, but the story is different at home

■ TYING THE KNOT
Why the General Synod is abolishing the reading of the banns

Football: Ian Rush ended his goal drought, scoring his first for Leeds United on his sixteenth appearance, putting the seal on a Premiership victory over Chelsea .. Page 25

Football: Rangers beat Aberdeen 3-0 to take a five-point lead at the top of the Bell's Scottish Premier table, in pursuit of their ninth successive title .... Page 31

Rugby Union: Australia resisted a spirited fightback by Wales at Cardiff Arms Park to give David Campese a winning 28-19 send-off in the wing's final international match .... Page 33

Cricket: Apart from century-maker Alec Stewart, the England tour team looked woefully out of touch as they lost by five wickets to a Zimbabwe President's XI Page 27

Snooker: Stephen Hendry led John Higgins 5-4 at the end of the first session of the United Kingdom Championship final .... Page 26

Golf: Colin Montgomerie won the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa, beating Ernie Els in a play-off .... Page 26

Racing: BBC racing coverage is under attack for its attitude towards sponsors and the outdated style of commentators .... Page 37

The winning numbers: 26, 42, 4, 25, 5, 49. Bonus 48. Three people shared the £9,641,466 jackpot, each receiving £3,213,822. Sixteen people also won £185,412 each.

Preview: Beaverbrook was a philanderer who worried that he might not go to heaven. *Secret Lives: Lord Beaverbrook* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on the ups and downs of Saturday night .... Page 47

Labour and Ulster

Tony Blair needs to associate himself directly with the affairs of Northern Ireland, and make clear where he stands. As part of that process, personnel issues need to be considered .... Page 21

Day of Aids

Aids still exacts a huge cost on emotions and resources. Awareness and responsibility are still the most effective weapons against this scourge .... Page 21

Nick's Knack

Most people outside West London will surely be wondering whether Sir Nicholas Scott really can be the best that the safest Conservative seat in the country can offer Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Cyberspace is an impregnable tax haven. Global electronic transactions will multiply and become harder and harder to identify. Habits of tax payment formed in the period when transactions could be identified will weaken. The tax take is likely to fall in most countries .... Page 20

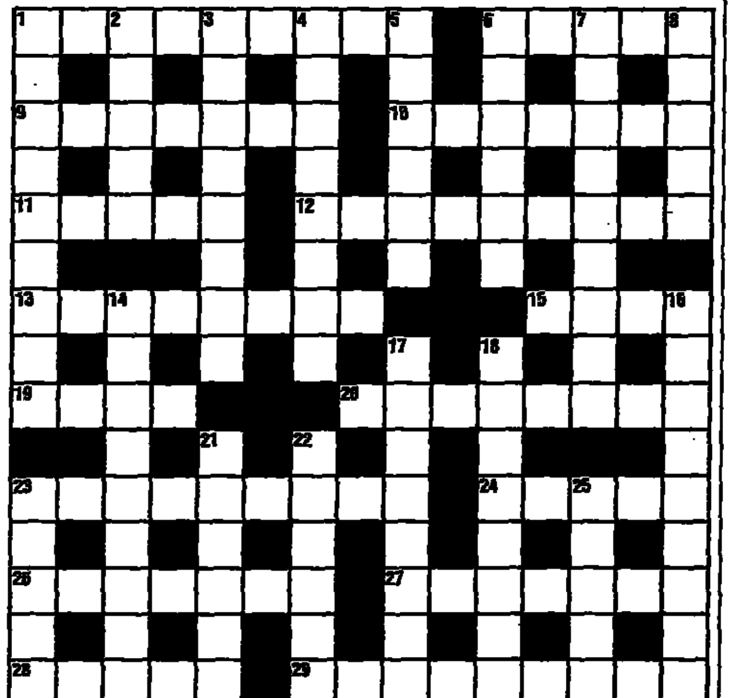
PETER RIDDELL

Labour policy has been seriously contradictory in proposing no overall rise in public spending while opposing many of the Tory measures to contain expenditure. Last week, Labour spokesmen were again denouncing cuts in a wide range of programmes, from the London Underground to single-parent premiums, without saying whether their party could, or would, reverse them .... Page 20

Tiny Tim, American singer; **Ithier de Roquemaurel**, French publisher; **Margaret Pollard**, Sanskrit scholar and Cornish bard; **John MacDougall**, former chairman of the Kennel Club .... Page 23

Criticism of Police Bill; museum charges; aspirin and paracetamol; Solzhenitsyn "too harsh" on modern Russia .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,340



ACROSS
1 Blockades firm military leader gets by (9).
6 Sort of shirt worn casually with uniform for the occasion (5).
9 Run most unsatisfactorily – remedy sought (7).
10 Man races, pounding after a junior official (7).
11 Live, captured by top newsman with listening equipment (5).
12 Base showing good sense containing a fire outbreak (9).
13 Press for a reduction? (8).
15 Member making mark in party once (4).
19 Disgusting row (4).
20 The way a guide is found for the newcomer (8).
23 Property charge (9).
24 Policeman's decoration to be worn round neck (5).
26 Gamble both inside and outside the joint (7).
27 Back to the land? (7).
28 Length is a matter of feet (5).
29 Dog the reason for shepherd's delight? (3,6).

DOWN
1 Catch – no, caught – up with the German rival (9).
2 Thoughtful type of male employer (5).
3 Shrank from publicity about game (8).
4 Identity of drunken seamen confined in ship (8).
5 Provides working groups for the county (6).
6 Perfect country environment for conservationists (6).
7 Wrapping long since replaced (9).
8 Town-centre's shop needs such a lock (5).
14 Limit that can make many over-severe (9).
16 Save money for drinks dispenser (3-6).
17 Taking up sweets, put weight on, perhaps (8).
18 One vehicle or another I put in wrong gear (8).
21 Relish a difficult situation (6).
22 Vessel like a clipper, but smaller? (6).
23 Book for which a pound is given with little hesitation (5).
25 Song composed by a social worker after church (5).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,339 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.46 am
Sun sets: 3.54 pm
Moon sets 12.09 pm
Moon rises 11.18 pm

Last quarter tomorrow

London 3.54 pm to 7.47 am
Bristol 4.04 pm to 7.56 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 8.23 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.05 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.02 am

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will have sunny intervals, but also showers, mainly in west Wales and northwest England. During the evening, rain will spread from the southwest across many western areas. Rather breezy, but temperatures mostly near average.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have frequent showers, heavy at times and falling as snow on hills where there may be drifting in the strong winds. Sheltered eastern areas should have sunny intervals. Temperatures a little below normal.

☐ **London, SE, E, Cent N England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** Mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals. A few showers. Cloudy later. Wind W, strong becoming moderate. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Cent S, SW England, Ch'l Is:** Bright or sunny intervals, a few showers at first. Cloud increasing; rain later. Wind strong W, becoming mod SW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **W Midlands, Wales:** Bright or sunny intervals, a few showers at first. Rain later, perhaps sleet or snow on hills. Wind strong W, becoming mod SW. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NW England, Lakes, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** Bright intervals and blustery showers, heavy at times and wintry on hills. Wind strong to gale W, moderating slowly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** Bright or sunny intervals, a few wintry showers. Wind W, strong and gusty. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Cent H'lands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** Showers, heavy and blustery at times, perhaps hail and thunder. Snow on hills, occasional drifting. Wind W, strong to gale. Max 7C (45F).

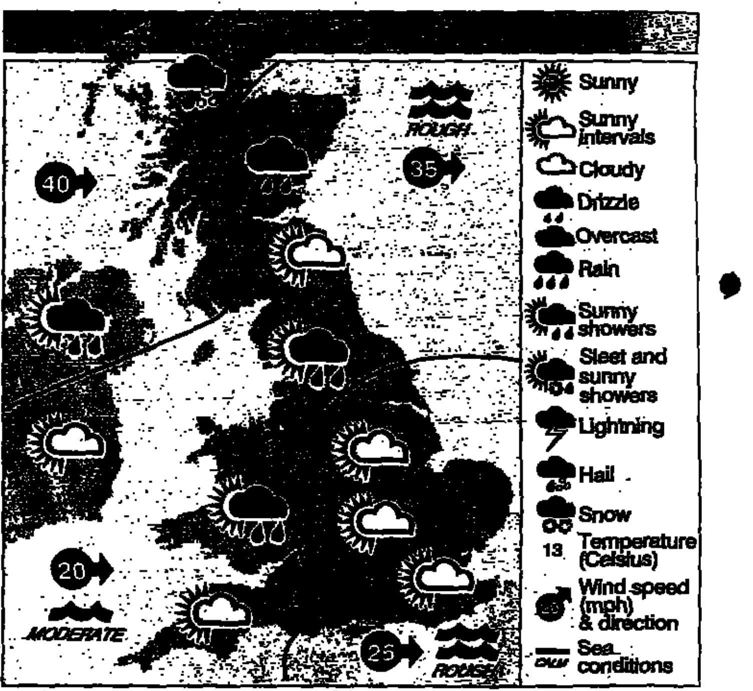
☐ **Outlook:** Unsettled. Rain at first, becoming more showery. Snow in north.

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

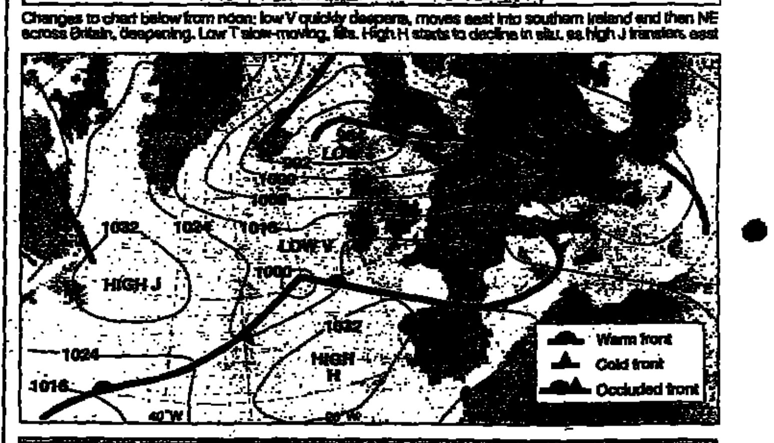
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.7	0.01	9	48	s	Leeds	1.7	0.02	11	52	sh
Anglesey	1.6	0.07	13	55	b	Lerwick	0.3	0.21	7	45	sh
Aspatria	0.3	0.07	9	48	sh	Leuchars	3.8	0.02	9	48	sh
Aviemore	0.2	0.39	7	45	sh	Littlehmptn	-	0.04	11	52	r
Belfast	2.1	0.20	9	48	sh	London	-	0.02	12	54	r
Birmingham	0.5	0.01	12	54	c	Lowestoft	-	0.03	10	50	d
Bognor R	-	0.03	12	54	r	Manchester	0.1	0.06	11	52	sh
Bournem'th	0.1	0.05	12	54	c	Minehead	2.0	0.01	13	55	b
Bristol	0.9	0.02	12	54	d	Newcastle	3.2	0.07	11	52	sh
Buxton	1.0	0.15	9	48	r	Newquay	1.0	0.05	12	54	c
Cardiff	X					Norwich	-	0.03	11	52	c
Clacton	X					Oxford	0.7	0.03	12	54	fg
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	0.10	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	0.5	0.05	12	54	r	Poole	0.2	0.04	12	54	c
Cromer	-	0.01	10	50	d	Prestatyn	X	0.04	10	50	sh
Eastbourne	-	0.09	12	54	r	Ross-o-wye	0.7	0.01	12	54	b
Edinburgh	X					Sandown	-	0.01	12	54	c
Exmouth	-	0.01	12	54	c	Saunton Snd	0.5	0.04	12	54	c
Falmouth	0.8	0.03	12	54	b	Shanklin	-	0.02	12	54	c
Fishguard	1.1	0.02	11	52	sh	Skegness	-	0.03	10	50	sh
Folkestone	0.2	0.04	11	52	r	Southport	0.6	0.08	10	50	sh
Glasgow	1.0	0.24	9	48	sh	Southsea	-	0.01	12	54	c
Guernsey	-	0.07	13	55	d	Stornoway	1.7	0.31	8	46	h
Hastings	-	0.04	11	52	d	Swanage	0.2	0.03	13	55	sh
Hayling I.	-	0.01	12	54	d	Teignmouth	0.4	0.01	13	55	c
Hove	-	0.01	11	52	d	Tiree	1.7	0.31	10	50	sh
Hunstanton	-	0.02	9	48	du	Torquay	-	-	13	55	b
Isle of Man	2.2	0.10	11	52	sh	Tynemouth	-	0.04	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0.22	12	54	r	Ventnor	-	0.02	12	54	fg
Kinloss	1.3	0.06	8	46	sh	Weymouth	-	0.04	12	54	c

Ajaccio	16	61	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Malta	16	61	f	Salzburg	1	34	c
Akrotiri	21	70	f	Dublin	10	50	c	Melb'rne	15	59	c	Santiago	28	82	s
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	X			Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	-5	23	s
Algiers	17	63	f	Faro	21	70	s	Miami	24	75	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Amst'dm	6	43	f	Florence	12	54	s	Milan	14	57	s	St'kholm	X		
Athens	16	61	r	Frankfurt	5	41	f	Montreal	2	36	s	Strasb'rg	6	43	f
B Aires	23	73	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Moscow	2	36	f	Sydney	27	81	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Geneva	5	41	s	Munich	1	34	c	Tangier	18	64	f
Bangkok	28	82	f	Gibraltar	20	68	s	N Delhi	20	68	s	Tel Aviv	24	75	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	1	34	c	N York	X			Tenerife	24	75	s
Barcelona	17	63	f	Hong K	21	70	s	Nairobi	24	75	s	Tokyo	10	50	s
Beirut	25	77	f	Innsbrck	1	34	sn	Naples	9	48	d	Toronto	3	37	r
Belgrade	2	36	r	Istanbul	16	61	f	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Berlin	3	37	d	Jeddah	30	86	s	Oslo	-5	23	sn	Valencia	21	70	s
Bermuda	16	61	r	Jo'burg	24	75	t	Paris	8	46	f	Vanc'ver	6	43	c
Biarritz	11	52	c	L Angels	X			Peking	2	36	s	Venice	11	52	s
Borde'x	11	52	d	L Palmas	22	72	f	Perth	22	72	f	Vienna	5	41	s
Brussels	6	43	s	Le Tquet	7	45	f	Prague	3	37	c	Warsaw	0	32	c
Budapst	3	37	s	Lisbon	16	61	s	Reykjavik	4	39	f	Wash'ton	X		
Cairo	22	72	s	Locarno	11	52	s	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Luxembg	2	36	f	Rio de J	27	81	f	Zurich	4	39	f
Ch'church	25	77	X	Luxor	27	81	s	Riyadh	21	70	s				
Chicago	7	45	f	Madrid	14	57	s	Rome	9	48	f				
Cologne	5	41	f	Majorca	17	63	s	S Fr'sco	10	50	s				
Corfu	12	54	r	Malaga	23	73	s	S Paulo	25	77	c				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low V quickly deepens, moves east into southern Ireland and then NE across Britain, deepening. Low T slow-moving, fills. High H starts to decline in situ, as high J transfers east



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:34	6.3	6:13	6.2	Leith	6:54	4.7	7:07	4.7
Aberdeen	5:48	3.6	6:01	3.7	Liverpool	3:13	7.8	3:33	7.9
Avonmouth	10:59	10.8	11:25	10.2	Lowestoft	1:14	2.4	2:37	2.1
Belfast	3:35	3.0	3:51	3.3	Margate	3:46	4.2	4:32	4.0
Cardiff	10:43	10.2	11:04	9.6	Milford Haven	10:27	5.7	10:56	5.3
Devonport	9:37	4.8	10:08	4.4	Newquay	9:33	5.4	10:02	5.1
Dover	3:08	5.8	3:39	5.5	Oban	9:43	3.4	10:22	3.1
Dublin (N Wall)	4:08	3.4	4:25	3.6	Penzance	8:56	4.7	9:29	4.4
Falmouth	9:39	4.3	10:09	3.9	Portland	9:56	1.8	10:44	1.4
Greenock	4:53	3.1	4:51	3.4	Portsmouth	3:25	4.2	3:34	4.0
Harwich	3:38	3.8	4:09	3.5	Shoreham	3:10	5.3	3:21	5.0
Holyhead	2:31	4.7	2:49	4.8	Southampton	2:54	4.1	3:08	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	10:27	6.0	10:25	6.2	Swansea	10:31	7.8	11:00	7.4
Ilfracombe	10:11	7.5	10:39	7.2	Tees	8:11	4.3	8:22	4.5
King's Lynn	10:34	5.0	10:50	5.0	Walton-on-Naze	3:23	3.8	4:01	3.6

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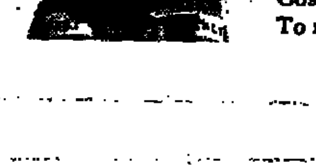
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.51in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 4.7hr.



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Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	5,057
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مكبرا عن الاصل

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

IT'S GOODBYE FROM HIM...
Campese says farewell for Australia
PAGE 33

...AND HELLO AGAIN FROM HIM
Jonathan Davies returns for Wales
PAGE 33

SPORT FOR ALL
Biking back to happiness PAGE 38

DAMP START
England lose winter tour opener PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

CHELSEA BROUGHT CRASHING TO EARTH AT ELLAND ROAD

Leeds thrive on kick and Rush

Leeds United	2
Chelsea	0

By Rob Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE FA Carling Premiership is in danger of serious regression into malice if the match at Elland Road between Leeds United and Chelsea yesterday is allowed to become any kind of benchmark for appalling foul play and refereeing that is an abdication of the rule book, as Fifa has lately redefined it. The game itself, as ferocious at times as the swirling Yorkshire gale, produced early goals for Brian Deane and, at long last, for Ian Rush.

Thereafter, so dishevelled were Chelsea at the back that it could have been a humiliation; it could also, perversely, have been all square after a second-half rally during which Chelsea were denied a blatant penalty and one of their substitutes, Frank Sinclair, almost broke the crossbar in two with a header from six yards.

The result suggests that Leeds, as motivated as this, are in the wrong half of the table and will rise fast. It also suggests that, for all their fine and expensive stylists, Chelsea do not possess the calibre of potential title-winners.

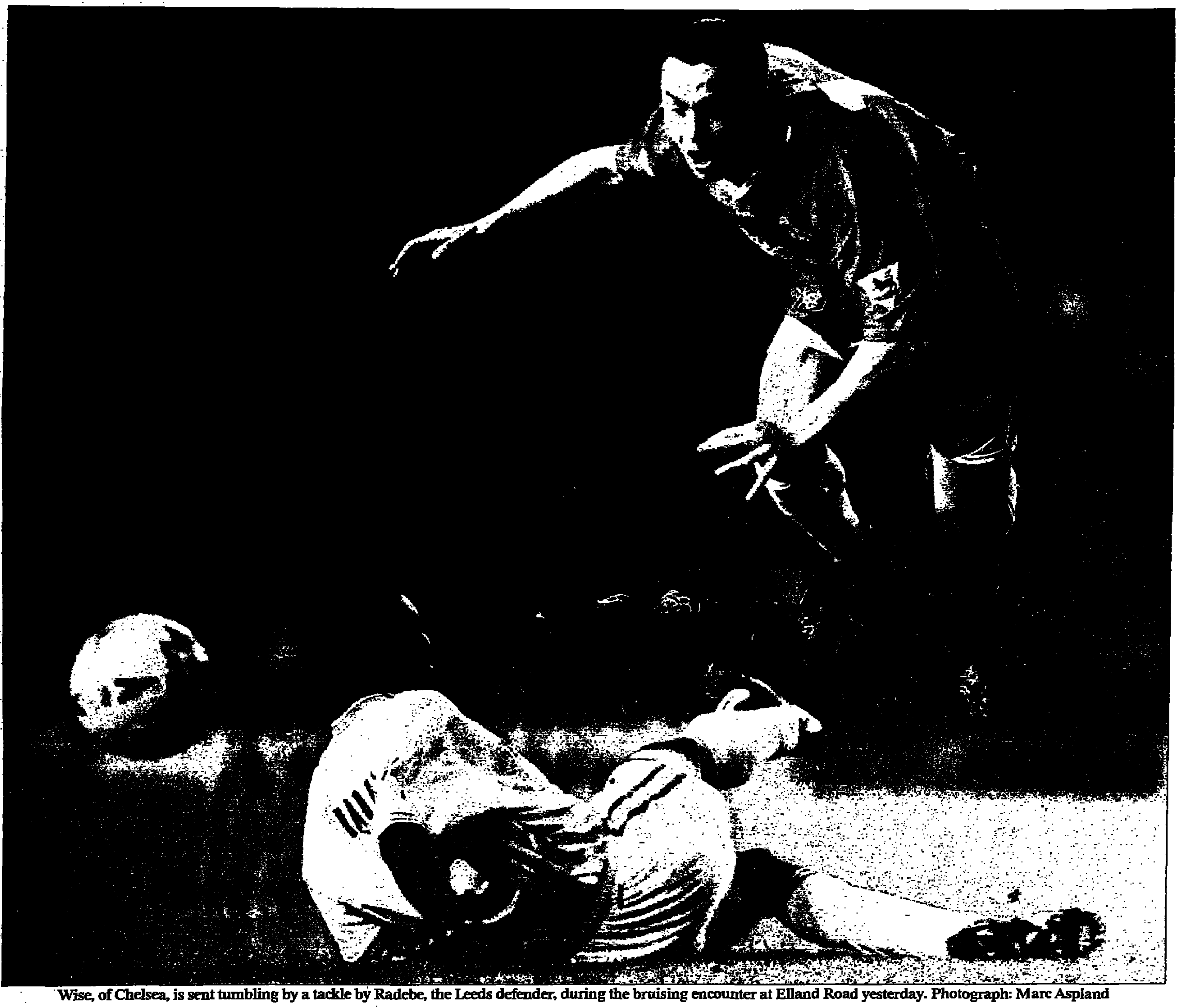
Yet all considerations are secondary compared to the unsavoury aspects of players, first in Leeds white and then in Chelsea blue, kicking one another from behind with utter disregard for the limbs of fellow professionals. If referees are not competent to prevent such thuggery, then it is time the Professional Footballers' Association called their own members into account.

Yorke spot-on 28
Steve McManaman 28
Arsenal united 29
Rampant Wolves 31
Regal Rangers 31

They could begin with the video *evidence of the horrendous* use of the studs in the 73rd minute by Deane that left a four-inch gap requiring six stitches in the unprotected flesh above the ankle of Hughes in the 73rd minute. Hughes, never the angel, had only moments earlier perpetrated a cynical foul from behind on Beesley. The stretcher for Hughes was an unwelcome sight, the fact that Deane, once more, with a two-footed tackle from behind on Clarke, and even Ruud Gullit, Chelsea's player-coach, and the supposedly elegant Frenchman, Frank Leboeuf, were also foul players going through opponents from the back, tells you how high the blood was running.

The shame of all this is that it runs completely contrary to the efforts to make the stadiums and those who sit in them more civilised. Time was when the threat to life and limb of a Leeds v Chelsea affair came from the hard core of their indisciplined following.

Alas, the perceived amnesty that our referees have embarked upon, lowering the tone of their early season authority, is bringing disrepute on the field. The kicking at Elland Road came after a tackle by Chris Morris, of Middlesbrough, against Keith Gillespie, of Newcastle United, on Wednesday that was X-rated by any account other than the feeble refereeing retribution of a yellow card.



Wise, of Chelsea, is sent tumbling by a tackle by Radebe, the Leeds defender, during the bruising encounter at Elland Road yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

"I want my teams to be committed, to win the ball back as early as possible, and be a forward-looking team. That's a style that has served me well at Millwall and Arsenal, and I am sure it will serve us well at Leeds United. I'm in the game to win." Thus did George Graham, the Leeds manager, spell it out in the match programme. To carry out this policy, Leeds put Radebe on Zola as a man-marker. Ironically, the little Italian may have been the one player who came off without the marks and the bruises of this alien contest.

Initially, Deane and Rush were able to cut through what posed as a Chelsea defence almost at will. Their goals came little more than a minute apart. *In the eighth minute,* Beesley produced an early through ball into the penalty box that just beat the offside trap. Deane eluded the on-rushing goalkeeper, Frode Grodas, and from an acute angle, scored with his left foot. Wise had lain prostrate on the ground, the victim of a Rush tackle, unseen, as the move for the goal built up.

And then something that has taken from May to December to arrive — an Ian Rush goal. Kelly crossed from the right, Sharpe found space behind Petrescu and, amid some Chelsea confusion, *Rush was swift, brave and predatory* from seven yards. The scorer of 346 goals for Liverpool, he had required 16 games to break his duck for Leeds.

Leeds, particularly Deane, should have had more goals. In the nineteenth minute, Grodas came out and threw himself at Deane's feet to save, and Rush headed the rebound wide. Four minutes later Grodas again deflected an effort by Deane and was hit on the body by the rebound attempt from Rush who had the goal at his mercy.

Beesley and Carlton Palmer were *giving Leeds the defensive stability* and the order that Chelsea lacked and early in the second half Rush, with the goalkeeper backpedalling in front of him, lofted a measured chip that Grodas tipped over.

Gradually, from their reshaped midfield, where Gullit and Newton replaced Wise and Di Matteo at *half-time, Chelsea established the* kind of grip that there experience and star qualities demanded. But, amid the continuing malice, which included a kick by Vialli into the calf of Rush that went completely unpunished, Chelsea's pressure *earned very little. Leboeuf came forward* and slid the ball to Clarke; Palmer took Clarke's ankle; the referee took no heed of the penalty claim. Much later, from one of Zola's teasing, inswinging corners, Sinclair struck the crossbar and, almost as time ran out, Palmer denied Vialli a chance, before *Gullit,* with a free header, propelled the ball straight at Martyn. It was all over bar the talking.

Gullit pondered whether what happened to Hughes was a legacy of the striker's past. Rush, so often a colleague of Hughes on interna*tional duty was also asked about* the foul play. "It was within the spirit of the game," he said.

The spirit was malign.

LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2). N Martyn — D Wetherall, C Palmer, P Beesley — G Kelly, M Ford, L Bowyer, L Radebe, L Sharpe — I Rush, B Deane
CHELSEA (3-5-2). F Grodas — M Duberry, F Leboeuf, S Clarke — D Petrescu, G Zola, R Di Matteo (sub: E Newton, 46min), D Wise (sub: R Gullit, 46), S Minto — G Vialli, M Hughes (sub: F Sinclair, 76)
Referee: S Dunn.

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SNOOKER

Hendry is unable to break spirit of rival

BY PHIL YATES

THE intimidatory force of century breaks in consecutive frames was not sufficient for Stephen Hendry to shake off John Higgins in the first session of the United Kingdom championship final, played to the best of 19 frames, at Preston yesterday.

Hendry, attempting to retain top spot in the provisional world rankings, entered the concluding phase of the game's second most important event holding a precarious 5-4 advantage. That scoreline represented something of an escape by Higgins, who trailed 5-2 at one stage.

It was hardly surprising that these fellow Scots, who three weeks ago joined forces with Alan McManus to capture the World Cup in Thailand, displayed uncharacteristic signs of nervousness during the initial exchanges.

Higgins, chasing his sixth leading title during a two-year span in which he has emerged as the leading challenger to Hendry, was expected to settle down after a decisive 69 break in the opening frame.

Yet he missed two routine reds in losing the second frame and, occupying prime-scoring position in the third, he jawed a straightforward red to a middle pocket that allowed Hendry to the table for a run of 74.

SCORES

SEMI-FINALS: J Higgins (Scot) bt K Doherty (Ire) 9-3, S Hendry (Scot) bt A McManus (Scot) 9-1. Final: Hendry leads Higgins 5-4

Higgins levelled by accounting for the fourth frame with a contribution of 64 but, after taking a disjointed fifth, Hendry carried his total of century breaks in the championship to six and his career aggregate to 358 with back-to-back efforts of 102 and 115.

Many lesser players would have crumbled in the face of such an onslaught but Higgins stood firm. He fashioned a 36 clearance in the eighth and, with confidence restored, put together breaks of 47 and 46 to dominate the closing frame of a tense afternoon.

Hendry has prevailed on three of their previous four meetings with Higgins's solitary success being a 5-4 victory in the first round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge 11 months ago after he had trailed 4-1.

When Hendry describes a particular performance as one of his best, by definition it must be special. On the way to drubbing McManus 9-1 in the semi-finals on Saturday, he mixed a powerful cocktail of unerring potting accuracy with miserly safety.

Though Hendry did not compile a century against McManus, there was a ruthless exploitation of virtually every chance afforded to him. As a result, Hendry registered by far his most one-sided win over an opponent who traditionally gives him plenty to think about.

BBC's England team fail to make a mark

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TV ACTION REPLAY

Like the television coverage, my England ritual has changed since boyhood. Lucky hat on, several trembling trips to the toilet, legs crossed, fingers crossed, half-time digestives and come on David Duckham, score, please score. If the Blond Express did and England triumphed, it only took the *Grandstand* teleprinter to tap out a Coventry City victory to show that all in the world was good.

All three occurred together enough times for the lucky hat to retain its charm. Usually, though, it was tossed down and everyone was blamed from the stupid centre for not giving Duckham a pass, to Bill McLaren for his fawning over the cursed, match-winning Gareth Edwards or Andy Irvine for his last-gasp penalty goal. And then there was Coventry's colander defence — no change there from the Seventies.

The venerable David Coleman, in his regulation pork-pie hat, has given way to the hatless and vulnerable Steve Rider, whose pre-match battle on Saturday against the Twickenham loudspeaker sent him indoors and recalled problems of the first live television commentary from there in 1938. During the match, Teddy Wakelam was asked by the engineers: "Please do something about the sun." His reply was: "Ask the director general to have the damned thing put out."

Of course, technology has done away with the chaos. That is why, when the first and second cameras missed the New Zealand Barbarians first try completely, a third panned to the rescue. You could almost hear the production team's sighs above Nigel Starmer-Smith's breathless chatter. It was not until an overhead shot, unearthed 15 minutes later, that we learnt that the score should never have been allowed.

Pictures can, and often do, say a thousand words. You could see the distress that Mike Catt was in at No 10 for England, groan at every tackle that Tim Rodber missed, wince at Andy Gomarsall's hapless floundering, but these were trifles not deemed worthy of mention by Rider and Co. They collectively rejoiced in the so-called "positives", rather than discuss the fact — missed altogether — that in losing 34-19, England had conceded more points than in any match at Twickenham.

It was ironic that a game celebrating 125 years of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) deleted from the records England's previous heaviest points concession at Twickenham — a 28-11 loss to a President's XV, on the RFU's hundredth birthday. Maybe the guests did not wish to poop the party on Saturday. Brian Moore was alongside Rider for some biting comment, presumably. The pit bull had rubber teeth. Eventually, he conceded that the touch-kicking was poor. He might have mentioned England's lack of tackling. No one did.

For all that these were All Black wolves in Baa-Baa's clothing, it was the end of a long season. Their genius was crammed into the second half, but it required someone to put the grand theatre in context. Nick Farr-Jones did an admirable job in summarising the five nations' championship critically and incisively last season. It needs strong, independent opinion, not apologists.

Now that rugby league has given up the worst winter months and dumped the Regal Trophy, in spite of BBC pressure not to, it is open season for televised rugby union. Rider is in residence at Twickenham for a month. It is *Grandstand's* meaty filling between stale bread. More honest objectivity would serve the sport and the BBC better.

Rugby Special has its critics and goodness knows John Inverdale's wardrobe deserves the flack, but sometimes it has guests who mouth more than platitudes. The quote of the weekend was from Jon Sleightholme on seeing his try: "Just enough space for the fat boy to get in." That was because Jonah Lomu was not where he should have been. Taking Sleightholme for Duckham, his try filled one part of my triple whammy, which was let down by England's defeat and the dread teleprinter confirmation — Derby County 2 Coventry City 1.

Goalkeeper spoils birthday party

THE Cardiff Devils ice hockey team celebrated their tenth birthday on Saturday, but Ayr Scottish Eagles spoilt the party, winning 3-1 thanks to a well-organised defence and a superlative display in goal by Sven Rampf. For the Devils, unbeaten away, this was their fifth home defeat but they still retained their place at the top of the Superleague table.

Newcastle Cobras, with a 4-2 win over Manchester Storm, drew within one point of the Devils while Sheffield Steelers, 4-1 winners over Nottingham Panthers, are only four points behind the leaders with four games in hand. Bracknell Bees remain rooted to the bottom of the table and their 8-5 defeat at the hands of Basingstoke Bison was their eleventh of the season.

Senior triumphs

Golf: Peter Senior, of Australia, withstood a charge by the world No 1, Greg Norman, to win Greg Norman Classic at the Royal Melbourne course yesterday. In driving rain and wind, Senior fired a final round of 70, two under par, to finish one stroke ahead of Norman, who had a closing 69. Norman briefly shared the lead after he sunk a long putt for an eagle on the par-five 14th, but Senior then birdied the hole to move the decisive one shot clear. Senior, with earlier rounds of 69, 73 and 69, thus gained his second win of the year on the Australasian tour.

Title retained

Cycling: Roger Hammond retained his London Open cyclo-cross championship title yesterday with a repeat victory over Barrie Clarke, the 1995 runner-up. Yesterday the gap separating the two at the finish of the 24km event at Addington Hills, Croydon, was increased from 45 seconds to 50 after Hammond put in a powerful opening 3km lap to take a 30-second lead, which he never lost.

Queen of speed

Skiing: Katja Seizinger, of Germany, won the year's first women's downhill at Lake Louise, Alberta. Seizinger skied the Lake Louise course in 1min 41.91sec, more than half a second faster than Carole Montillet, of France, who had a time of 1:42.51. Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, was third in 1:42.64 while the downhill specialist, Picabo Street, of the United States, was another four hundredths back.

Dual winners

Fencing: Quentin Barriman and Georgina Usher won the men's and women's titles in the British epée championships at Hendon Police College. Barriman defeated Steven Paul 15-7 in the final, and Usher defeated Debbie Catchpole 15-10.

TENNIS

Enqvist rallies to force decider in Davis Cup final

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MALMÖ

THOMAS ENQVIST, the player destined to lead Sweden's tennis future in succession to Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, came off the ropes in the fourth match of the Davis Cup final against France yesterday to pull Sweden level at two matches each. Ranked No 9 in the world, Enqvist had been expected to overpower Cedric Pioline, ranked 12 places below him, but was initially overwhelmed by the size of his responsibility.

Pioline swept through the first two sets 6-3, 7-6, Enqvist groping around to find his rhythm. Recovering, he clawed his way back into contention, finally winning 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 9-7 after 2½ hours. The injured Stefan Edberg, who had fallen in the opening match of the final against Pioline, was replaced for the decisive singles, against Arnaud Boetsch, by Nicklas Kulti, ranked No 65.

The anxieties of the Davis Cup can freeze a player's mind. For the first two sets of his match against Pioline, Enqvist might have been playing at the North Pole. Seldom did the ball come off the centre of his racket. With victory being imperative, after the doubles loss by Bjorkman and Kulti against Forget and Raoux on Saturday, Enqvist's muscles were strung even tighter than his racket.

Vainly did the crowd chant "Too-mas, Too-mas". Opposite him, Pioline was steadiness itself, concentrating on keeping the ball in court, varying the line of his deceptive backhand and comfortably awaiting the frequent delivery of his opponent's unforced errors. Enqvist, who in recent weeks had confidently climbed the rankings, twice double-faulted in his first service game, and did not win a rally of note until the first game of the second set.

Pioline, who won the Copenhagen title this year and was a quarter-finalist at the French Open, is not an athletic player. With his shuffling gait, and what seemed like a pair of Army tropical-kit white shorts — much cloth, not much style — he does not cut a dashing figure. Touch is all. For two sets, Enqvist was devoid of touch.

Yet his spirit was never submerged. However deep the crisis, he continued to go for his shots. He did not stretch Pioline to deuce on service until the second game of the second set, and did not hit one of his own thumping, two-fisted backhand passes until leading 4-3 in the second set. In the next game, he missed two break points for 5-3, and though leading 4-2 in the tie-break, he stuttered miserably, missing set point at 7-6 when putting an open-court forehand into the net.

DETAILS

FINAL: France level with Sweden 2-2 (France names first: C Pioline bt S Edberg 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; A Boetsch lost to T Enqvist 6-4, 6-3, 7-6; G Forget and G Raoux bt N Kulti and J Bjorkman 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; Pioline lost to Enqvist 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 9-7; Boetsch losing to Kulti 7-6, 2-6, 4-6 in decider)

Pioline appeared destined to secure the trophy. Yet now, at last, Enqvist's game began to come together, though not without more missed heartbeats. Leading 2-0 in the third set, he squandered four break points for 3-0, but held on to the earlier service break to reach two sets to one.

If Enqvist had frozen, Pioline now began to melt, trailing 4-0 in the fourth set, then hauling himself to 4-4. Enqvist broke a third time in the set to lead 5-4 with a forehand pass that wrong-footed his opponent, and in spite of a tactical locker-room visit by Pioline, served out for two sets all.

Enqvist has the definitive, unflappable Swedish temperament. Even when sliding 2-0 down in the final set, losing his service to love, he continued at the change of ends to wear that half-smile when sitting in his chair. He missed a break point, allowing Pioline to lead 4-1, and at 5-3 Pioline served for the Cup.

Now it was his turn to falter: 15-40. On the next point, Pioline served deep to Enqvist's backhand. With a desperate lunge, Enqvist scooped the ball back into court, kept the rally going, and reached 5-4 down on Pioline's overhit backhand. Four big services levelled the match at 5-5.

The next four games went with service. Leading 40-30 at 7-7, Pioline left a dipping cross-court forehand by Enqvist, which he had covered. It fell in. Deuce. The strain was telling. His forehand error and double-fault gave Enqvist 8-7.

Now, at 15-15, Pioline hit a towering defensive lob that was narrowly called out. His nerve splintering, Pioline was warned for knocking over a sideline judge's chair, vacant at the time. Extending the agonising suspense for his supporters, Enqvist proceeded to double-fault twice to go 40-30 down. He saved himself with a forehand drive: deuce.

Pioline, the older by five years, was spent. Enqvist reached match point when ending the next rally with a forehand drive, and Pioline returned the next first service beyond the baseline.

PRESSENS BILD

Pioline, who surrendered a two-set lead, feels the strain during his match against Enqvist

Call-up gives Henman big payday

BY ALIX RAMSAY

TIM HENMAN has been given a place in the main draw for the Grand Slam Cup, which starts in Munich tomorrow. The £3.6 million event promises to provide Henman with his biggest payday to date and even if he falls at the first hurdle — he will play Michael Stich in the first round — he is guaranteed £60,000.

The invitation has come as a surprise to Henman. The qualifiers for the richest tournament in the world are the top 16 players at the four grand-slam events throughout the year. Thanks to Henman's efforts at Wimbledon, where he reached the quarter-finals, and the US Open, where he reached the last 16, he had initially gained a place as second reserve. That alone would have earned him £30,000 just for turning up in Munich ready to play. But with Thomas Enqvist first in line to fill any vacancies, he had to rely on two players dropping out.

He gained his place among the elite yesterday when Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin all withdrew.

"It's a surprise, but it's great," Henman said. "I haven't even practised since the nationals last month."

Henman, ranked No 29 in the world, has already earned more than £325,000 this year, and had planned to rest after beating Greg Rusedski in Telford two weeks ago to win the British national title for the second successive year.

Not that he is too upset about the Munich windfall and an extra week's work. "It's a bonus on top of everything else," he said. "I've got nothing to lose. I'm just going to go out and have fun. If I win, that's great but if I don't, it doesn't really matter."

HOCKEY

Southgate weather late storm

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND ALIX RAMSAY

SOUTHGATE qualified for the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup with a 4-3 win at home against East Grinstead yesterday, the visitors closing the gap during a thrilling closing period after trailing 4-1.

The pattern of this exciting match was set in the fifth minute with a goal for East Grinstead by Gibson, but once Southgate settled down they forced numerous short corners, four of which were converted by Woods (2), Duthie and Waugh. East Grinstead's late goals came from Laird and Boyse.

There were no surprises in the remaining fourth-round matches, although an altercation in Hounslow's 3-1 win over Indian Gymhkana led to the temporary suspension of three players — Kirkland, of Hounslow, and Virdi and Michael of Gymkhana. Jennings converted four short corners for Guildford in a 4-1 victory over Cambridge City. Three non-league clubs, High Wycombe, Hampstead and Westminster and Chelmsford survive.

After the matches in the National League on Saturday, Cannock and Southgate share the leadership of the premier division, although Cannock's goal difference is superior. Crutchley inspired their 4-2 away win against East Grinstead with a goal in the first minute.

Slough and Ipswich go into the hibernation period still locked together at the top of the women's National League. On Saturday, Slough put three goals past Leicester, Mandy Nicholls scoring twice, while Ipswich did the same to Sutton Coldfield.

While Ipswich had a day off yesterday in the AEWHA Cup, Slough made their way into the fourth round, Nicholls scoring a hat-trick in the 10-0 win over North Staffs.

Hightown travelled back happily after the long haul to Horsham, where they ran out 10-2 winners.

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GOLF

Montgomerie makes amends in play-off

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE, the European No 1, who had lost all four of the sudden-death play-offs that he had contested, overcame his jinx to win the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa, yesterday.

A birdie at the par-four 18th enabled Montgomerie to beat Ernie Els, who had been cheered on by the "home" galleries, at the third extra hole after they had finished level on 14 under par after four rounds. The powerful Scot's second shot kicked off a bank and finished five feet from the hole.

By sinking the putt, Montgomerie gained some measure of revenge for the victory that Els scored over him in a three-way play-off at the 1994 US Open.

The play-off crowned a thrilling final day that saw Els record birdies at the last two holes for a final round of 66, while Montgomerie finished with a four-under-par 68. They were one shot ahead of Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, and Steve Jones, the US Open champion. All 12 players in the event finished below par.

Ian Woosnam, of Wales, the joint overnight leader, slipped back to fifth place with a 73, after dropping four shots in the first nine holes, while Nick Faldo, of England, the Masters champion, was in a three-way tie for ninth place after a 73.

Montgomerie admitted that fortune favoured his brave approach to the third play-off hole. "I was a little bit fortunate," he said. "I birdied a few holes early on, which helped. I saw others like Ian Woosnam having problems, and that gave me confidence.

"But I knew the main danger was Ernie Els. I am delighted to finally get one over him. Though he still leads me 2-1, today makes it a little sweeter."

Montgomerie said that his plan had been to attack when necessary, but to avoid errors. "I just concentrated on getting up and down and let others make mistakes," he said. "That ploy gave me birdie chances and I finally got one at the 21st. I saw what happened to Ernie, who hit it to the left, used an eight-iron myself, and the shot worked for me."

Els had set up the play-off with his 66, six-under-par and the round of the day. Montgomerie and Jones had battled over the final five holes, with the lead changing hands twice as Jones dropped shots on the 16th and 17th, and then missed a ten-foot putt on the last green. With it went his chance to contest the play-off.

SAILING

Cape brings unspoken fears

Lucy Duncan on hot chocolate and cold comforts as she heads south for Cape Horn

I WAS hoping that this would be a "first round the Horn" report from *Concert*. Unfortunately, we are not yet round — although we may be by the time you read this — nor are we any longer first in the BT Global Challenge fleet, a temporary status I am sure.

We are just out of the Roaring Forties and into the Furious Fifties, at latitudes of 40 and 50 degrees south respectively. Our progress from Rio de Janeiro has been erratic, to say the least. We seem to have had far more light winds than it is reasonable to expect in the "notorious South Atlantic", and the Roaring Forties barely moaned.

A week ago, we experienced our first high winds of the leg, the first of many I am sure, and a small taste of what is in store. The drysuits that we tested in the hotel swimming pool in Rio came into their own as waves regularly crashed over the deck.

Our feet were frequently removed from underneath us by the force of the water. Without needing any encouragement, everyone was meticulously clipped on and did not go far. The biggest difference between this experience and the ones to come was the pleasantly warm feeling of the water. The thought of the waves being 20C colder is sobering indeed.

The journey southwards has been marked by a change in the sea, from tropical blue to icy green. At one point, the water temperature dropped by 10C in just 24 hours. We are now accompanied by beautiful gliding albatrosses. The shorts and T-shirts have been well and truly packed away.

The albatrosses can be a bit of a problem; they are so difficult to ignore. More than once I have been brought to my senses by a sharp instruction to "watch that kite", as the spinnaker I was supposed to be trimming collapsed, unnoticed by me, lost in the contemplation of so elegant a bird.

THE Challenge fleet lost its second crew member in a week when Rhian Jenkins was airlifted from *Global Teamwork* to the Falkland Islands on Saturday. She is thought to have a duodenal ulcer and will be flown back to Britain. The leading yachts are expected to round Cape Horn today.

Each watch-change now sees the new crew come on deck wearing more and more clothes. This is usually accompanied by a slightly pitying glance from Chris Tibbs, our skipper, who has been round Cape Horn twice, and the comment: "What are you going to do when it gets cold?" It now feels quite like winter at home — not a time most people would choose to go sailing — and it is clearly going to get much colder. Soon I will be wearing virtually all the kit I have with me.

The cooler weather has brought on the great hot chocolate debate. Half the crew was under the impression that hot chocolate, of which we have a finite supply, was to be kept until after the Horn. The other half has been gaily digging into the supplies and half the tin is gone.

Amazingly, the dispute was settled amicably and the chocolate now has a preservation order on it until the Cape. Any breach of this could have dire consequences. These things can develop an importance out of all proportion when we are living on top of each other, with the prospect of being cold and wet for a few weeks.

We are now free to turn our thoughts to the Horn and the Southern Ocean. Considering that we discuss virtually everything, little has been said about people's fears and hopes for the next few weeks. My major problem in describing how I feel is that I still don't know what to expect. All will be revealed soon.

Latest positions, page 32

CRICKET: HUNDRED FROM STEWART FAILS TO SAVE TOURING SIDE FROM WORRYING DEFEAT

Bowlers struggle in lacklustre start by England

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

ENGLAND paid the price for the trial separation from the implements of their trade — namely bat and ball — when they were easily beaten by a President's XI in a one-day match at Harare Sports Club here yesterday. Several players looked woefully out of touch and showed few signs of having regained their appetite for the game that the enforced rest of the past two months had been designed to instil. Alec Stewart, who held the England innings together with a composed 105, was a rare exception.

Cynics might suggest that the defeat — by five wickets with 25 balls to spare — was according to the form book, as Zimbabwe hold a 2-1 lead in three one-day internationals between the teams. This result, however, must rank as more unlikely than those in Albury, in 1992, and Sydney, in 1994, as three of Zimbabwe's leading players — Houghton, Streak and Paul Strang — were missing.

What is most alarming is that many of England's opponents were almost as rusty as themselves, though for very different reasons. Only five members of the President's XI are professional cricketers and some of their amateur colleagues are unable to play regularly because of business commitments.

Eddo Brandes, who played a big part in the win at Albury and took the wickets of Knight, Atherton (second ball to a delivery that stopped on him) and Thorpe in the space of 15 balls yesterday, often needs to attend to his chicken farm. Dannie Erasmus, a talented batsman of 23 who played the innings of the day, a rasping 65, is training to be an accountant and can rarely be lured into playing anything more than weekend club cricket. Craig Evans, who finished the match by smashing Caddick for a huge straight six, is first and foremost a tobacco auctioneer.

More predictable, but no less assuring, were the contributions of the professionals. Alastair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, having realised that Erasmus, with whom he put on 85 for the third wicket, had put his side in the driving seat in pursuit of a target of 212, got his head down to see that they stayed there.

Guy Whittall lent him support and when Campbell was out for 45, he took over, finishing unbeaten on 36, to complete a useful weekend's work against the touring side. He top-scored with 58 for Country Districts before a violent thunderstorm led to the abandonment of England's first tour fixture, at Harare South Country Club, on Saturday.

As England will find themselves up against these players again when the internationals start in a fortnight, any complacency will surely have been dispelled. David Lloyd, the England coach, described the result as "inconvenient but not the end of the world".

That said, England did possess some plausible excuses. The toss was an important factor in the outcome as the square produced its customary life and variable bounce during the first hour of the day, which Brandes capitalised on superbly and probably better than any England seamer bar Mullally, who swung the ball and conceded only 18 runs in ten overs, would have done had they bowled first. Gough was not playing, having bowled well in the first match.

With England 24 for three in the eleventh over, Stewart and Hussain, who played confidently for 50, had no choice but to rebuild the innings with care, but their partnership of 133 in 33 overs left little scope for a strong assault towards the end of the innings. In a way, they opted for a worthwhile workout rather than take too many risks.

Also, the match yesterday was played in sweltering heat and Caddick, a necessary inclusion but a week behind in his preparations after his viral infection, clearly showed the strain. He delivered nine wides and his 7.5 overs yielded 53 runs. A gentle net might have served him better.

Croft again bowled effectively in his one-day style and kept cool under Erasmus's fire, but there was not much to recommend the rest of the bowling. Tufnell never found his rhythm, and with Erasmus twice picking him up for two legside sixes and driving him straight for another, he limped out of the attack after bowling four overs for 38, though not before the England fielders had orchestrated a couple of implausible appeals. Tufnell returned later to bowl with more control but by then the pressure was off.

Irani bowled too short for the second day in a row and was duly punished for it. With so little in the pitches to help him, it is imperative that he bowls an accurate line and length. He claimed four wickets over the weekend but two of them came from rank bad balls. Silverwood was scarcely more impressive in his first match for England on Saturday, when he was clearly nervous and over-anxious to do well.

If there were extenuating circumstances to the defeat yesterday, several areas of concern have emerged for England to wrestle with. "This was a difficult game for us but sadly we were not up to it," Lloyd said.

DAVID GILES

Stewart acknowledges applause for his century in the one-day game yesterday

SCOREBOARDS FROM HARARE

Yesterday

ENGLAND XI

N V Knight c G W Flower b Brandes	7
A J Stewart c A Flower b Rennie	105
*M A Atherton c Strang b Brandes	0
G P Thorpe b Brandes	1
N Hussain c G W Flower b G J Whittall	50
R C Irani not out	14
†R C Russell not out	8
Extras (lb 9, w 12, nb 5)	26
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	211

R D B Croft, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell and A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-15, 3-24, 4-157, 5-194.

BOWLING: Brandes 10-0-42-3; Rennie 10-1-40-1; G J Whittall 10-1-50-1; Strang 10-0-31-0; A R Whittall 3-0-12-0; G W Flower 4-0-13-0; Evans 3-0-14-0.

PRESIDENT'S XI

K J Davies run out	5
G W Flower c Caddick b Irani	23
D N Erasmus c Thorpe b Croft	67
*A D R Campbell c Thorpe b Caddick	45
†A Flower b Croft	4
G J Whittall not out	36
C N Evans not out	17
Extras (lb 2, w 16)	18
Total (5 wkts, 45.5 overs)	215

J A Rennie, E O Brandes, B C Strang and A R Whittall did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-24, 3-60, 4-126, 5-194.

BOWLING: Mullally 10-4-18-0; Caddick 7.5-0-53-1; Irani 6-0-40-1; Croft 10-2-29-2; Tufnell 10-0-59-0; Thorpe 2-0-14-0.

Umpires: I Robinson and K Barber.

Saturday

DISTRICTS XI

G J Whittall c Stewart b Irani	58
M H Dekker c Irani b Mullally	13
J M Oates c Hussain b Croft	8
C N Evans c Knight b Irani	6
G K Bruk-Jackson c Thorpe b Irani	6
G J Rennie c Stewart b Mullally	32
J A Rennie c Atherton b Silverwood	20
†R D Brown c Stewart b Gough	0
E A Brandes not out	18
B C Strang b Mullally	13
*T D Coughlan not out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 18)	24
Total (9 wkts, 45.3 overs)	198

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-71, 3-90, 4-100, 5-121, 6-162, 7-164, 8-167, 9-197.

BOWLING: Mullally 9-1-35-3; Gough 8-1-29-1; Silverwood 9.3-0-48-1; Croft 10-1-34-1; Irani 9-0-46-3.

ENGLAND XI: †A J Stewart, N V Knight, *M A Atherton, G P Thorpe, N Hussain, J P Crawley, R C Irani, D Gough, R D B Croft, G E W Silverwood, A D Mullally.

Umpires: Q J Coosen and G Evans.

McGrath displays welcome return to best form

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CANBERRA

ANTHONY McGRATH had scored just 96 runs in his six previous innings on the England A tour of Australia, but there was no sign of such indifferent form as his superb century put the visitors in control against ACT on the second day of the match in Canberra yesterday.

Having dismissed ACT for 216, with Peter Such claiming the final two wickets after they resumed on 212 for eight, McGrath's 108 helped England A establish a 79-run lead with five wickets standing on an inconsistent pitch.

McGrath hit 12 boundaries in an innings that lasted nearly four hours, and conquered not only the limited ACT attack but also a pitch that seemed to deteriorate rapidly. "It's nice to get a few runs under my belt," McGrath said. "I feel as if I have been playing OK but runs have been a bit hard to come by."

Mark Butcher and Michael Vaughan constructed a 61-run opening partnership and Craig White hit a half-century in 68 balls, but it was McGrath who dominated the day. "It was just a matter of application and a lot of concentration," he said.

ACT: First Innings

P L Evans c Hegg b Chapple	16
*M R J Veletta c Hegg b Chapple	17
P J Solway c Hegg b White	59
B D Hara b White	7
I A Garrity lbw b Giles	49
D J McDonald c Giles b Such	33
†M B Robinson b Such	0
H O'Meagher not out	7
E A Mackenzie c Hegg b Such	0
B J Smith c Chapple b Such	9
D J Thornton b Such	0
Extras (b 3, lb 12, w 4)	19
Total	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-42, 3-64, 4-124, 5-195, 6-195, 7-195, 8-198, 9-214.

BOWLING: Chapple 16-1-43-2; Harris 11-3-28-0, Hollioake 5-2-22-0; White 15-3-49-2; Giles 18-7-27-1; Such 32.3-21-29-5; McGrath 1-0-3-0.

ENGLAND A: First Innings

M A Butcher c O'Meagher b Smith	29
M P Vaughan lbw b Smith	40
A McGrath c Solway b Thornton	108
O A Shah c Robinson b Mackenzie	23
C White b McDonald	53
*A J Hollioake not out	31
†W K Hegg not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 3, nb 6)	11
Total (5 wkts)	295

A F Giles, G Chapple, A J Harris and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-85, 3-149, 4-283

BOWLING: Smith 19-3-58-2; Thornton 16-5-46-1; McDonald 14-1-64-1, O'Meagher 20-6-58-0; Mackenzie 15-4-54-1, Garrity 2-1-9-0.

Umpires. B Thornton and J Hannford

New fast bowlers put Test batsmen to flight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LANCE KLUSENER, of South Africa, and Mohammad Zahid, of Pakistan, both pace bowlers, completed remarkable Test debuts by bowling their sides to series-levelling victories yesterday.

Klusener took eight for 64 in the India second innings in Calcutta, where the home side were dismissed for 137 and beaten by 329 runs. Zahid returned seven for 66 in Rawalpindi, where New Zealand, who won the first Test in Lahore, passed 100 with only one wicket down but collapsed to 168 all out to lose by an innings and 13 runs.

India, who faced a formidable target of 467, resumed at 59 for four and lost their remaining wickets before lunch. Klusener, who conceded 75 runs without taking a wicket in the first innings, caused havoc as he led the South Africa attack with Brian McMillan in the absence of Allan Donald, who had a bruised toe.

"It was a great fightback after losing the first Test," the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronje, said. "We out-batted and out-bowled them this time."

Mohammad Azharuddin, the former India captain, who struck the fourth-fastest Test century in the first innings, was again the top scorer, with 52 from 55 balls. It was only the second defeat for India in the 17 home Tests they have played since 1990, and Sachin Tendulkar's first as captain.

Zahid, 20, who replaced the injured Waqar Younis, had match figures of 11 for 130 and was successful with eight appeals for leg-before.

The Pakistan manager, Mushtaq Mohammad, rates him "a yard or two quicker" than Waqar, usually regarded as the world's fastest bowler.

"There was nothing wrong with the pitch," the New Zealand captain, Lee Germon, admitted. Zahid swept all before him after breaking the opening partnership of 82 between Bryan Young and Justin Vaughan, although Young fought hard to complete a half-century.

Scoreboards, page 32

Unlikely batting heroes put sting in the tail of intriguing match

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (third day of five): Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 104 runs ahead of West Indies

IT WAS Australia's first day of summer but purplish clouds gathered broodingly over Sydney as if to defy illumination of this enigmatic second Test. After three slow but gripping days, neither side had claimed ascendancy on a pitch spurning trust. This is a chess game, an exchange of bluff, probe and innuendo yet, like all chess games, there lurks expectation that it could be resolved by one dramatic intervention.

Australia led narrowly on first innings, only because their tenth-wicket pair was more productive than West Indies'. In two hours before the close yesterday, they were able to extend that advantage by only 77 and at a cost of two good wickets. Both teams are playing as if they cannot contemplate defeat, but, in these conditions, even this begrudging approach offers no immunity.

The pitch started out damp, presumably for fear that it would otherwise break up. It has negligible pace and bounce but neither factors are consistent and, as it dries and wears visibly, so it turns increasingly. Come tomorrow, it would not do to be attempting a fancy target on it.

Each first innings occupied roughly four sessions and ended with a surprisingly accomplished innings from a tailender. Ironically, in each instance the batsman preening himself on unaccustomed applause has also been his side's most influential bowler; McGrath for Australia and Bishop for the touring team.

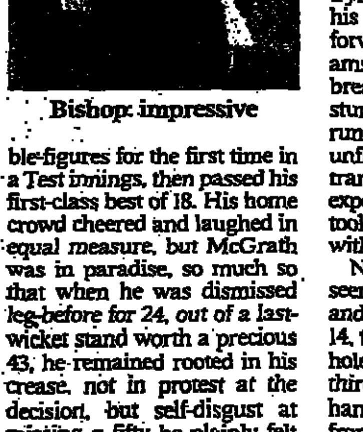
McGrath has developed into one of the finest new-ball bowlers in the world. His dismissal of Lara on Saturday evening, going round the wicket to slant the ball in before darting it away off the seam, was pure pedigree; so too, the subtle changes of pace that brought him two wickets in an over yesterday.

Bishop has been no less impressive, a transformation after his pedestrian efforts in Brisbane. Although only the fifth bowler used in the first innings, it was he who stalled Australia's progress. Last evening, after another misfire from the toiling Ambrose, Bishop came to the rescue once more.

McGrath and Bishop are quiet, shy men who have never sought the trappings of fame. Bishop has become a statesman within an often turbulent team; McGrath, almost unnoticed, has become a character essential to the Australia dressing-room, the country boy with the hyperactive tendencies of Merv Hughes, but none of the theatre.

He just hates taking jibes about his batting but he has had no good cause to discourage it. Until Saturday, his 20 Test matches had brought him 32 runs with a top score of nine and an average of two. As Test batsmen go, he is not just a rabbit, he is Bugs Bunny.

On Saturday, though, something almost miraculous occurred. McGrath made double-figures for the first time in a Test innings, then passed his first-class best of 18. His home crowd cheered and laughed in equal measure, but McGrath was in paradise, so much so that when he was dismissed leg-before for 24, out of a last-wicket stand worth a precious 43, he remained rooted in his crease, not in protest at the decision, but self-disgust at missing a fifty he plainly felt was there for the taking.



Bishop: impressive

Bishop, by contrast, at least shapes like a batsman and it was mildly surprising to find that his best Test score was a mere 31. The 48 he made yesterday ensured that West Indies' lower order sustained the battle more resiliently than has been their custom. It also restricted the deficit to 27 when it might have been 50 more, which would effectively have put them out of the game.

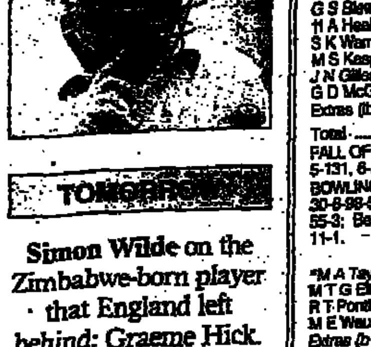
Several times, in these initial Test matches, West Indies have retreated meekly and counterproductively to their trenches. More than once, Walsh has been at fault for transparently falling back on defence in the field, but at start of play yesterday it was the batsmen who seemed intent on distancing themselves from the traditions and reputations of the Caribbean.

Hooper fell when not even trying, tucking his bat behind his pad as he pushed half-forward to Warne. When Adams shouldered arms to a legbreak that almost hit his off stump it seemed Warne might run riot, but Chanderpaul's unflurried approach finally transmitted itself to his more experienced partner and they took West Indies past lunch without further loss.

Neither player, however, seemed able to step up a gear, and when three wickets fell for 14, the innings was once more holed. Adams became the third of the top-order left-handers to fall to McGrath from round the wicket and Browne chipped his fourth ball to mid-off. Chanderpaul, bemused by Warne's loop, returned a tame catch and it was left to Bishop to supervise the tail with authority, while Gillespie picked up his first two Test wickets.

The final session did not proceed quite as Australia planned but, without some conspicuous luck, it would have been much worse. Taylor had made only one when he was bowled offering no shot to a no-ball from Walsh. Later, Mark Waugh, unusually nervy, was missed off Hooper's off-spin, Browne fumbling the legside edge.

Bishop, meantime, had dismissed Taylor, through a juggling slip catch by Lara, and Ponting. Elliott survived through the gloom of the evening, growing in stature and gaining his side a safer foothold with every run.



TOMORROW

Simon Wilde on the Zimbabwe-born player that England left behind: Graeme Hick.

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Chanderpaul b Bishop	27
M T G Elliott c Lara b Bishop	29
R T Ponting c Samuels b Walsh	9
M E Waugh c Lara b Walsh	19
M G Bevan c Hooper b Benjamin	16
G S Blewett c Adams b Walsh	69
†I A Healy c Lara b Walsh	44
S K Warne c Browne b Bishop	28
M S Kasprowicz c Campbell b Walsh	21
J N Gillespie not out	16
G D McGrath lbw b Adams	24
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 18)	29
Total	331

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-68, 3-73, 4-94, 5-131, 6-224, 7-245, 8-283, 9-288.

BOWLING: Ambrose 25-5-73-0; Walsh 30-8-98-5; Hooper 14-6-15-0; Bishop 23-5-55-3; Benjamin 22-4-69-1; Adams 5.5-1-11-1.

Second Innings

*M A Taylor c Lara b Bishop	16
M T G Elliott not out	45
R T Ponting c Browne b Bishop	4
M E Waugh not out	2
Extras (b 2, lb 4, nb 4)	10
Total (2 wkts)	77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-67.

BOWLING: Ambrose 4-0-15-0; Walsh 6-2-9-0; Bishop 11-2-23-2; Benjamin 1-0-3-0; Adams 3-0-16-0; Hooper 5-3-5-0.

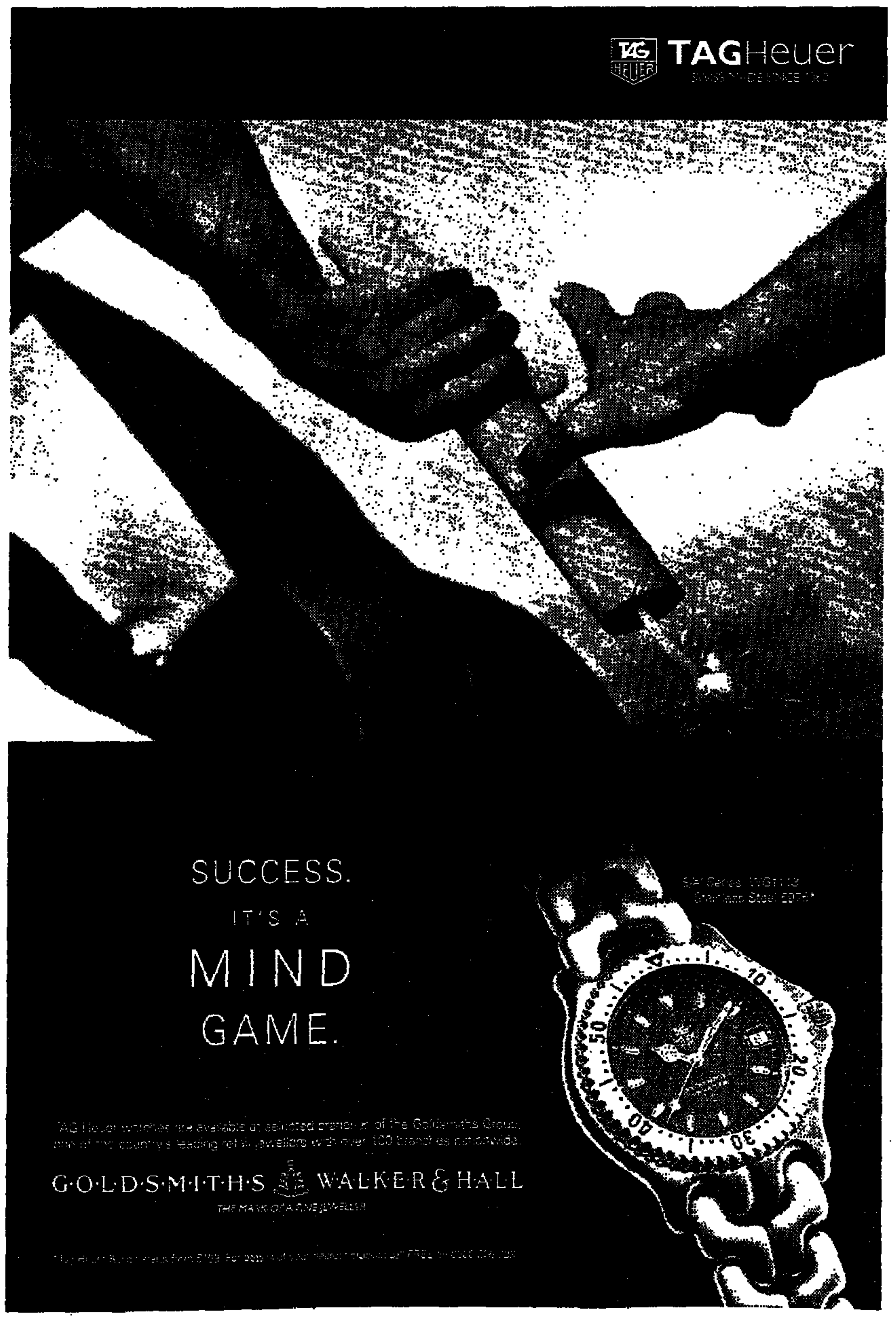
WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell b Blewett	77
R G Samuels lbw b McGrath	35
B C Lara c Healy b McGrath	2
C L Hooper lbw b Warne	27
S Chanderpaul c and b Warne	48
J C Adams c Bevan b McGrath	30
†C O Browne c Blewett b McGrath	0
I R Bishop c Elliott b Warne	48
C E L Ambrose b Gillespie	9
K C G Benjamin b Gillespie	6
*C A Walsh not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 10)	20
Total	304

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-92, 2-108, 3-136, 4-188, 5-229, 6-229, 7-243, 8-286, 9-298.

BOWLING: McGrath 31-9-82-4; Kasprowicz 13-2-37-0; Warne 35.2-13-65-3; Gillespie 23-5-62-2; Bevan 11-0-35-0; Blewett 4-0-13-1.

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and D R Shepherd (England).



صورة عن الأصل

FOOTBALL: DISPUTED PENALTY PROVES SUFFICIENT TO DENY ROBSON'S BIG NAMES

Middlesbrough felled by Yorke

Aston Villa 1
Middlesbrough 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

"LIFE is boring," wrote the poet, Louis MacNeice, "we must not say so."

He was a rugby fan, and therefore knew of what he spoke, but he would have been quite justified in saying as much of the FA Carling Premiership. For all the fabulous flow of money, the bloated transfer fees, far too many games look like this one. Or like the Coca-Cola Cup tie that I saw Villa lose, somewhat bizarrely, against Wimbledon, four days earlier.

On Saturday, Villa won through a penalty. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, predictably thought that it was a brutal injustice that changed the whole course of the game. Brian Little, the Villa manager, admitted that he could not see what happened, but that Dwight Yorke, who seemed to be tugged by Cox while turning in the penalty area, asked him, plaintively: "What else could I do?" What else, he meant, but fall.

Yorke banged in the penalty, five minutes from half-time, and overall outshone "The White Feather", Fabrizio Ravanelli, whose feathers were somewhat bedraggled on this occasion.

After the game, too, he was not the same Ravanelli one saw after his dazzling display against Wales last January, on a waterlogged pitch in Terni. Then, you could not stop him talking, a veritable torrent of explanation, jubilation, self-justification. At Villa Park he merely remarked that he was off to see his brother, and was away with an urgency he had seldom shown on the field.

Will he stay at Middlesbrough, who, in their long history, have won nothing more notable than a couple of FA amateur cups, and those in the 1800s.

Years ago, there was a comedian called Davie Morris whose catchphrase was: "Boro for the Cup!" It did not happen even in the great days of Mannion and Hardwick, men who never dreamt of the money paid to Ravanelli, Juninho — hurt and substituted in the second half — and Emerson, who was suspended and, seemingly, cannot wait to get away.

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT

Cox, left, the Middlesbrough defender, lunges forward powerfully to beat Yorke to the ball at Villa Park

Robson's view that after the goal Villa were able to sit back, soak up pressure and break was a strange one, given that Middlesbrough did not get a shot on goal until three quarters of the game had gone by, and then Stamp's well-struck effort flew straight into the arms of Oakes.

Indeed, the only difficult save of the second half was made by the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, Walsh, a couple of minutes after Stamp's shot. Townsend, forever driving on his team, worked his way into the area for a left-footed drive that Walsh turned round a post.

Villa and Yorke began promisingly when, after only ten minutes, the striker hit a shot that Walsh kept out with his legs. Thereafter, there was little threat to the Middlesbrough goal until that penalty.

The victory, Little admitted, "might have been a sloppy one, but we need to get a few results." Not as desperately as Middlesbrough, who are struggling sadly in the league.

Savo Milosevic, another of the well-paid strikers on view, almost scored near the end with a hard, low cross-shot that went not far wide of the far post. The chance had been made for him by Townsend, his optimism unquenched for all Villa's recent ineffectuality.

Villa did their best to sell Milosevic to Perugia, the city and club that produced Ravanelli. Perugia would not come across with the money so Milosevic stays and Little said: "He certainly worked harder than he had been before the Perugia thing. When he keeps the ball moving, he's a handful to the opposition."

Indeed, Milosevic was even seen, on occasion, to make adroit use of his usually dormant right foot.

Robson made light of Middlesbrough's own, greater, ineffectuality. "You do soak up a lot of pressure," he remarked, somewhat obscurely. "Once you've silenced the crowd, you come into it and that's when you get in your shots in an away game."

Well, one shot, anyway.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — S Staunton, R Scimeca, U Ehiogu — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): G Walsh — C Fleming, D Whyte, N Cox, C Morris — R Mustoe, Juninho (sub: A Campbell, 62min), C Hignett, P Stamp — F Ravanelli, M Beck.

Referee: G Willard.

Liverpool on guard for Tottenham backlash

STEVE McMANAMAN

White Hart Lane this evening, and Liverpool are facing Tottenham Hotspur on the back of our best performance of the season, and their worst. A good time then, to be playing Spurs? Almost certainly not. In fact, I can't think of a worse time to be playing a live television game away from home.

Judging by some of the reaction to their 6-1 defeat at Bolton Wanderers in the Coca-Cola Cup, we apparently only have to turn up to collect three points. But you quickly learn to ignore all the talk of despondency, of crisis.

There has been a sharp focus on Tottenham this week, and on their bad defeat. Criticism has come from all sides, their manager said that he was humiliated and the players called it their worst performance ever. But they are hardly going to play like they did in midweek again are they? The cameras will be there, their crowd will be revved up, and they will have plenty of motivation.

It is all sounding ominously like the Blackburn Rovers game — and we were beaten 3-0 there. They had just lost their manager, no one gave them a chance, and yet they came out with enough adrenalin to staunch a boxer's cut eye. It will be the same again for us: win, and it will be no more than expected after easily beating Arsenal; lose, and we will be the ones who messed up, no matter how well Tottenham play.

I know it is almost a cliché, but there are no easy games in the FA Carling Premiership, as Blackburn proved by soundly beating us when they were bottom of the table. Spurs were hammered in midweek, sure, but that was a cup-tie. I didn't see the game, but experience teaches that there are plenty of ways for it to happen. You go a couple of goals behind, and turn kamikaze, then either you get back in the game, or get hammered. Heads can go down, too: trailing in a cup-tie, it is easy to lose heart.

It does not hide the fact that Spurs are a good side, with players like Teddy Sheringham and Darren Anderton. Anyway, that scoreline was just the latest in a torrent of amazing results this season. Manchester United losing 5-0 and then 6-3, Chelsea at our place, us at Blackburn, Newcastle United losing at Leicester City and at home to Sheffield Wednesday. I think what this illustrates is that the league is tighter than ever. Anyone, really, can lose to anyone these days.

> 'The league is tighter than ever. There are no easy games any more'

I think the money that is sloshing around the game now has a lot to do with it. It means that all the Premiership clubs can afford some quality in their team. The gaps that used to exist between top and the bottom is no longer there. There are no clubs who have not got the faintest chance of surviving any more.

Look at Coventry City, Blackburn and Nottingham Forest. They are struggling at the foot of the table, but their teams are full of internationals. When Blackburn played us, I think every member of their side had international honours. In the past, there were games that you expected to win, and did win. Not any more.

Now, it is down to the preparation in each game. Have a bad start, make a couple of mistakes, and you will lose, no matter who you play. That happened to us at Blackburn, and to Newcastle at Leicester. A few weeks before, we had gone to Leicester and it was tight in the first half, but we held on well, and won comfortably in the second.

When Manchester United lost by five goals to Newcastle, Alex Ferguson said everything the opposition hit flew in. The week before, Liverpool created as many chances against United, and everything we hit was saved. We lost. It is down to factors on the day, a bit of luck or something that turns the game.

Every player must be on the top of their game, because you just know that the opposition will be fighting for everything. Maybe there is more at stake now than ever before.

With the money from television and sponsorship connected to the Premiership, it is potentially disastrous for a club to be relegated. That is why even the bottom clubs gamble on big-money signings, that's why you are almost guaranteed a scrap from the clubs desperately trying to scramble away from the wrong end of the table. Have a couple of players on an off day, or make a couple of mistakes, and you will be beaten.

There is no coasting in this business, it is pressure every time you pull on a jersey, because the competition has become so intense. That is why Liverpool will hardly have given a second thought to Tottenham's result in midweek. We know the adrenalin and the legs will be pumping, and we have to match that tonight.

Fans target goal-shy rivals

Sheffield Wednesday..... 0
West Ham United 0

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

"WHAT a load of rubbish" was the chorus of the West Ham United supporters behind one goal on Saturday, and it drew answering echoes and ripples of applause all around Hillsborough. Although Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, pronounced himself satisfied with the draw, he would have found few sympathisers among the paying customers with the way it was achieved.

The reason is not hard to find. When a club of West Ham's reputation for attacking football sees November end with a left back with three goals as joint top-scorer, all is not well. "Sad, isn't it?" Julian Dicks, the man in question, agreed. "But we're not in a bad position. We didn't start well last season, yet finished tenth."

All very true, but no more likely to mollify the purists of Upton Park than a pragmatic appraisal by Slaven Bilic, the Croatia international. "A point away is good enough," he said. "We avoided individual mistakes and defended well, but we are not dangerous up front. We lack a player who can play alongside Dowie and finish the efforts of the others. In the Premiership, you need a striker to finish in the top ten." That striker will not be Paulo Futre, with whom Redknapp has lost patience, and will probably not be Florin Raducioiu, whose work ethic is questionable.

Fortune does not always reward effort, however. When, after 54 long minutes, Hughes's 25-yard bolt from the claret and blue beat Pressman but smacked the crossbar, it only served to spark Wednesday, rather than his own team, into a short-lived semblance of life. Before that, it had been a torpid affair, with misplaced passes very much the norm.

"We needed a bit of inspiration," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said. "Shearer would have forced a goal somehow, or one or two others, but they cost a lot of money. Never mind, it will be Christmas soon." When Pleat and Redknapp — and supporters of both clubs — will be asking Santa for goalscorers.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-1-1): K Pressman — I Nolan (sub: S Oakes, 46min), P Atherton, D Walker, L Briscoe (sub. S Nicol, 40) — G Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge, O Trustfull (sub: R Humphreys, 70) — B Carbone — A Booth

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko — M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks — T Breacker, F Lampard, I Bishop, J Moncur, K Rowland — M Hughes (sub: S Lazaridis, 90), I Dowie.

Referee: P Durkin.

Sunderland flush out Royle's weaknesses

Everton 1
Sunderland 3

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TO THE disgust of the home support, Sunderland's understandably chuffed gaggle of followers, crammed together in a small nook of Goodison Park, struck up an ironic chorus of *You'll Never Walk Alone* at the end of an indomitable performance from their side. It might have been an ironic statement on the match itself.

Rarely did a Sunderland player walk alone throughout a 90-minute exhibition of the team ethic. So frequently did Everton's players find themselves isolated that they might have been clouds, blown this way and that by the icy breath of winter. Here was the match decided.

Sunderland do not possess great quality among their modest playing staff. They do have immense team spirit, epitomised by Kevin Ball, the captain, who displayed a work-rate that suggested he is particularly fond of spinach. Everton do have quality; maybe not as much as Joe Royle, the manager, suggested when he said last week that his side was capable of joining the coat-tails of those teams contesting the FA Carling Premiership, but still enough to deal with Sunderland's spirited opposition.

Yet Royle was forced to concede, after a thumping defeat: "Their goalkeeper played well, but our goalkeeper played even better." He was right. While Perez made a crucial save from Stuart's carelessly directed penalty a minute after the interval, Southall produced stops in the first half from Ball, Rae, Russell and Ball again that got better with each plunge to the turf.

In the second half he improved again, bravely denying Russell and then managing a deflection onto the left-hand post from the same player that was the save of the match. So why did Everton play so badly after an unbeaten run of eight league games? It was not Royle, or Southall, or any of the senior players who provided the answer, but 18-year-old Tony Grant, who could have been forgiven for not knowing.

"It seemed that everyone thought we would win the game even before we went out onto the pitch," he said. "Maybe we believed our own publicity. We did not play well, and what makes it worse is that the defeat has cost us the chance of going into the top six."

There is no room for complacency in the Premiership, especially when, like Everton, you still need at least two more players of quality to hold serious title aspirations. They were exposed at the back, and the goals that Sunderland scored underlined a need for more strength in the centre of defence.

Reid: happy return

The first, after 55 minutes, was a simple move down the right, completed when Rae turned Unsworth and crossed for Russell to head classically into the net. He was unmarked, as was Bridges, the exciting young substitute, when he looped a header over Southall after a volleyed cross from Bracewell in the 75th minute.

In between, the introduction of Ferguson briefly served as an inspiration to Everton. The blood was pumping as he climbed to send a header into the roof of the net through Perez's scorched fingers, but even then Bracewell, with his immaculate passing and intelligent positioning, was in charge of midfield, ably supported by Ball.

Everton clearly need someone of Bracewell's intelligence in the centre of their midfield, and that fact must have been as sweet for the former Everton veteran as it was for Peter Reid, his manager. They formed part of the last outstanding Everton midfield, and they could not hide their delight afterwards.

Bridges had confirmed Sunderland's superiority by stroking a loose ball home on the final whistle after Southall had produced a wonderful double save from Agnew and Gray.

"It's a smashing day, it's a wonderful place to come and I am just happy we have left with a result," Reid said. "Mind you, we're not a bad side when we finish with 11 players," a comment on recent dismissals.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe (sub: C Short, 81min) — A Kanchelskis (sub: M Branch, 62), A Grant (sub: D Ferguson, 52), J Parkinson, G Speed — G Stuart, N Barmby

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L Perez — G Hall, A Melville, M Scott, D Kubicki — A Rae (sub: S Agnew, 83), P Bracewell, K Ball, D Kelly, M Smith (sub: M Gray, 78) — C Russell (sub: M Bridges, 71)

Referee: P Jones.

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Forest's free fall accelerated by opportunism of Earle

Wimbledon 1
Nottingham Forest 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

A YEAR ago, on November 30, Nottingham Forest had lost only once in 14 FA Carling Premiership fixtures, collected 25 points and nestled themselves in seventh place in the table. They were also halfway towards earning a Uefa Cup quarter-final berth against Bayern Munich.

A year ago, on November 30, Wimbledon had triumped in only three of 15 Premiership matches, had gathered a paltry 12 points and had not won in ten league games. They lay sixteenth in the table, apparently destined for the big drop and, already, in line for all the insincere condolences that would accompany it.

Twelve months on, the role reversal is staggering. Forest are twentieth, bottom of the Premiership pile, and have not won in 14 league outings. The City Ground is also dominated by talk of a takeover, producing mass indecision among its 209 shareholders, with Frank Clark, the Forest manager and one of the Premiership's few remaining gents, reduced to no more than a bewildered bystander.

In contrast, Wimbledon lie fourth, hot on the heels of the fat cats that so frequently admire and despise them in the same patronising breath. They are unbeaten in 17 league and cup games, closing on a 13-year club record of 22, and are mischievously, yet seriously, considering a Uefa Cup place next season.

It might conjure awful visions — the Crazy Gang gatecrashes Europe — but fantasy edged another, albeit hesitant, step nearer reality at Selhurst Park on Saturday when Forest were cut down by a 38th-minute goal from Robbie Earle. Gayle's 25-yard free kick cannoned off the crossbar and Earle reacted swiftest to tuck in the rebound.

Hungry Wolves 31
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Wimbledon did not deserve it. They desperately resorted to the crash, bang, wallop style of old, when they bulldozed their way past all and sundry, and even then only narrowly did they stay afloat. "You have an off-day sometimes," Joe Kinnear, the manager, said. "The secret is that when you do, you still pick up the three points."

Honest Joe faked embarassment at being so close to the Premiership pacesetters and yet, for Clark, the challenge is all too real. No amount of obvious observations or jovial asides could hide the hurt; Forest are in a mess from top to bottom, from inside to out, off the pitch and on it.

"If that sounds confused, it's because I am confused," he said as one inadvertently convoluted explanation drifted off into the land of Colemanballs and Pseud's Corner. "We controlled a lot of the play but just weren't convincing where it mattered."

As long as Campbell continues to miss close-range chances, as he did on several occasions on Saturday, and Roy, another £2.5 million waste of space, is content to earn vast wages sitting on the bench, Forest will linger in the depths. Wimbledon, though, move onwards and upwards; for them, winning ugly has never been a problem. Europe beware.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, O Leonhardsen (sub: M Harford, 84min) — M Gayle (sub: A Clarke, 72), E Ekoku (sub: D Holdsworth, 72)

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle (sub: J Lee, 72), S Blatherwick, S Chettle, S Pearce — C Cooper, D Phillips, A I Haaland, C Allen — D Saunders, K Campbell.

Referee: M Reed.

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FOOTBALL: TEAM SPIRIT AND WRIGHT'S INDIVIDUAL BRILLIANCE SEE WENGER'S TEN MEN THROUGH

Newcastle toppled by Arsenal united

Newcastle United 1
Arsenal 2

By Simon Barnes

"PEOPLE work in teams because together they have the potential to create something they cannot create alone. By maximizing the quality of the relationship between team members, teams maximise their performance." The words of John Syer, a psychologist who works in sport and business, in his latest book, *How Teamwork Works*.

For most of us, teamwork is like a car. We recognise it when it is working well, but we have no idea how or why it does. And if it goes wrong, we are on the hard shoulder with the hazards a-flash, waiting for an expert.

To travel to Newcastle and play three-quarters of a match with ten men against the most spectacular attacking force in British football is, you would think, certain disaster. Some sides can, however, be galvanised by a sending-off as an additional dose of team spirit washes through them. One side you do not want to meet in such circumstances is Arsenal; the only worse choice would be Wimbledon. Both sides are remarkable for the way that their teamwork works: and, not by coincidence, rich Arsenal go top of the FA Carling Premiership and poor Wimbledon are fourth.

It is the tendency of new managers, especially those that arrive with ridiculous expectations, to change everything, especially personnel. It has been Arsène Wenger's early triumph to make the old Arsenal side more like itself than it was before.

He has introduced a single new player, the highly promising Vieira. Wenger's achievement has been to graft more ambitious notions of footballing craft onto the Arsenal tradition of discipline and pragmatism. So far, so excellent. Afterwards, he praised the spirit, the collective organisation and the luck: all traditional ingredients of Arsenal success. "The players have such a good relationship, such camaraderie," he said.

Ian Wright said it was a great result for the lads. The Lads: a sacred concept for Wright. He played last week in a T-shirt, underneath his Arsenal red, that bore the legend: "I love the lads". The Lads, The Team . . . a burdensome business for some who resent the need to seek their individual natures in a crowd. For others, it is the most fulfilling aspect of life. "I can't imagine not being in a team," Cyrille Regis once told me. "When I retire from football I'll have to take up bowls or something — just so I can be in a team."

Other footballers cannot wait to be alone, to go and play golf, perhaps. You suspect that everyone from Arsenal is in the bowls school of thinking; at least half the Newcastle side prefer the solitude of golf.

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT

Wright wrong-foots Batty, Watson and Beardsley to prompt another Arsenal attack against Newcastle United at St James' Park

Arsenal went ahead because Wright stripped Peacock of the ball on the byline. Peacock had a day when his pretensions of being a classy defender were ruthlessly exposed. His constant need to perform three-point turns must make him Wright's favourite defender. Peacock, beaten by the lad-loving Wright, lay on the ground to watch his torturer flick an immaculate cross for Dixon, unmarked, to score with a thumping header. Well, you did not expect Ginola to track back, did you?

However, this seemed a temporary setback when Adams was sent off midway through the first half. Up trotted the Arsenal back line, hands in the air: "Please sir, the opposition is offside." Asprilla was, indeed, miles offside, but trying to get back onside again. The linesmen ruled that he was not interfering with play, and the flag stayed down.

Panic. Double panic: it was Shearer on the ball. So Adams bundled him down, preventing a clear goalscoring opportunity, and he had to go. Newcastle equalised before the half was finished through Shearer, a wonderfully acrobatic header from Ginola's cross. And so, it seemed, the floodgates would open.

But they did not. Arsenal are very well equipped to play with ten men. You play your normal defence, and leave Wright up front by himself to try to nick something. And he does. There are times when you think Wright must be the best forward in England, and he is still improving. There is no footballing equivalent of "street-smart", but there should be. Wright is supremely "pitch-smart", or "ball-smart".

Arsenal won the match with a quick break from defence, Wright holding the ball up for Merson and then belting through. Merson's rather ambitious shot scuffed under Albert's boot and fell to Wright, whose finish was sweetness and light.

I looked back the other way as the break was on, and saw four Newcastle players watching with an air of bland condescension, strolling at their ease: *boulevardiers, flâneurs*. All day, it was ever Newcastle that were outnumbered. "A company of giddyheads, afternoon men," Burton said in *The Anatomy of Melancholy*.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, was gloomily anatomising his own melancholy afterwards. There are no half-measures with Keegan. He knows no emotions but euphoria and despair. On Saturday, all his players were hopeless, especially Asprilla, and if they played like that again he would have to change the personnel.

Wenger was smiling courteously beneath his rimless specs as he handed out his post-match pearls to a substantial posse of French reporters. "*Je prends*," he said, "*chaque allumette comme elle vien*." Something like that, anyway.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): P Srnicek — R Elliott, P Albert, D Peacock — K Gillespie, R Lee (sub: S Watson, 80min), P Beardsley, D Batty, D Ginola — A Shearer, F Asprilla (sub: P Kitson, 46)

ARSENAL (3-5-2): J Lukic — S Bould, A Adams, M Keown (sub: S Morrow, 75) — L Dixon, P Merson (sub: R Parlour, 84), P Vieira, D Platt, N Winterburn — J Hartson (sub: A Linighan, 30), I Wright.

Referee: G Barber.

Reluctant Parkes refusing to let success change him

Blackburn Rovers 2
Southampton 1

By Mark Hodkinson

A SPACE has been left before the word "manager" in the Blackburn Rovers match programme. Once more, however, Tony Parkes has confirmed that his name will not fill the slot between Baroness Thatcher (honourable vice-president) and Tom Finn (club secretary).

This is highly unfortunate; football management needs men like Tony Parkes. He is chipper, as honest as they come. He shuffled into the after-match press conference apologetically. In his role as caretaker-manager he had just orchestrated Blackburn's second win in 15 league matches but he was insistent that the feat did not make him a proper manager. "I want to stay what I am, a happy-go-lucky chap," he said. "Managers are all dour and miserable, they don't talk to you lot [reporters] like I do. Wait until Mr Souness comes in here, he's a proper manager."

Mr Souness is indeed a proper manager. His muscular defender, Van Gobbel, had been sent off, harshly in the view of most people at Ewood Park. "Football is a cruel game. We deserved something out of today's game, at least the point," Souness lamented.

In the first half, Blackburn played football to parallel Parkes's personality, open and quietly charismatic. They passed the ball around Southampton and should have scored more than Sherwood's solitary goal, which followed a neat cross-field pass from Gallacher knocked down by Sutton.

Unfortunatly, Woods fell awkwardly after colliding with Hendry and was carried off with a fractured leg. Dave Beasant deputised and repelled the constant wave of attacks.

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

Blackburn stuttered after the interval and Southampton, waking up to the opportunity, created their own chances. The ball broke to the willing Ostenstad and, despite Hendry's attempt to absail down his back, he took the ball through and placed it meticulously beyond Flowers.

Southampton's Dutch import, Van Gobbel, who had been irascible throughout, was booked for picking a fight with Wilcox. Six minutes later he was involved in an altercation with Sutton as he tried to shield the ball out of play. The Blackburn striker was undoubtedly the aggressor and rightly booked, but Roger Dilkes, the referee, had seen enough of Van Gobbel's shenanigans and off he went.

Sutton celebrated his pardon just minutes later when Donis threaded through a sublime pass. The striker guided the ball expertly beyond Beasant to record a just Blackburn victory.

Afterwards Parkes was drawn into speculation about his position. Would he do the manager's job if asked? "Yes, I would say no," he replied. But what about the money? "It's not about the money. People would give their right arm to be in football." Honourable, frank, impervious to money — perhaps Tony Parkes is not football management material after all.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T Sherwood, W McKinlay (sub: L Bohinen, 67min), G Fitzroft, J Wilcox — C Sutton, K Gallacher (sub: G Donis, 71).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-1-1): C Woods (sub: D Beasant, 10) — U Van Gobbel, K Monkou, R Dryden, S Charlton — J Dodd, J Magilton (sub: M Robinson, 59), N Maddison, M Oakley — E Berkovic (sub: C Lundekvam, 84) — E Ostenstad.

Referee: R Dilkes.

Strachan's tunnel vision fails to disguise Coventry's plight

Derby County 2
Coventry City 1

By Richard Hobson

GORDON STRACHAN remembers a time when he felt helpless in football. He had completed his second game for Leeds United, then in the old second division, lost 2-0 to Blackburn Rovers, and wondered why he had decided to move to Elland Road from Manchester United. Leeds eventually became league champions, with Strachan an influential figure — and a happy one — wide on the right.

He relates the story to demonstrate what is possible at Coventry City with a little hard work, despite the fact that they are one from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. He says that he does not feel as fearful as he did on that Saturday evening in Leeds.

"There are just small, technical problems here," Strachan said. "There is light at the end of the tunnel." But how long is that tunnel? Coventry have yet to win since Strachan succeeded Ron Atkinson as manager. Indeed, they have just a single league victory to their credit all season.

They had the chances to beat Derby County on Saturday, just as they have squandered opportunities since August. They are the lowest goalscorers in English football, with nine from 15 matches — a statistic suggesting that, while Strachan's problems may be technical, they are hardly small.

He will stick with his new front pairing of Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby in the hope that they complement each other in the way that Ashley Ward and Dean Sturridge have forged an effective partnership at the Baseball Ground. One is strong in the air and able to hold the ball, the other quick enough to scythe through defences. At 20, Huckerby is a decent prospect, assuming that his positional sense and decision-making develop. Sturridge, three years his senior, has added those qualities to become a real threat.

It was through the speed and trickery of Sturridge that Derby went ahead in the twelfth minute. He left Paul Williams prostrate as he turned sharply and ran forward before feeding Ward on the right. Ward checked inside Richard Shaw, who was judged to have impeded him, and Aljosa Asanovic converted the penalty.

Dublin met a corner from John Salako with a glancing header two minutes before half-time to equalise, and missed three good chances to put his side ahead after the break.

However, Derby responded by replacing Paul McGrath with an attacking midfield player, Christian Dailly, and the adventurous tactical change was rewarded 11 minutes from time when Ward volleyed beyond Steve Ogrizovic from close range when Dailly headed a loose ball goalwards.

Despite taking ten points from their last four games to move into ninth position, reality dictates that Derby must refuse to aspire beyond survival this season, their last at the Baseball Ground.

"We are trying to build a platform where we are resilient, so that teams do not look at us on the fixture list and think they have an easy game coming up," Steve McClaren, the coach, said. "Our front two are playing well together, so it gives us a good chance."

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hoult — D Yates, P McGrath (sub: C Dailly, 71min), I Stimac — J Laursen, S Flynn, A Asanovic (sub: L Carsley, 89), D Powell, G Rowett — A Ward, D Sturridge

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — R Shaw, L Daish, P Williams — P Telfer, N Whelan, G McAllister, E Jess, J Salako (sub: G Strachan, 86) — D Huckerby, D Dublin

Referee: M Riley.

Few thrills as United prepare to face Rapid test

Manchester United 3
Leicester City 1

By Peter Ball

RAPID Vienna were not playing at Old Trafford on Saturday, but they were an almost tangible presence. With Newcastle United losing, Manchester United's victory over Leicester City was significant in domestic terms, but almost everything in an interesting rather than thrilling game was judged for its impact on the visit to Rapid Vienna on Wednesday for the final game in the European Cup Champions' League.

Leicester did their best to spoil the preparations, resisting determinedly and setting United the sort of test that will have more relevance in the knock-out stage of the European Cup — if they get there — than for events in Vienna. The opposition was, though, almost an irrelevance to Alex Ferguson as the United manager watched Pallister, Giggs and Cruyff and pondered their readiness for the game that will decide their European fate.

Apart from some occasional bursts from Heskey, Pallister had a comfortable return as Leicester concentrated on defence. Heskey is nicknamed Bruno by the Leicester supporters. Watching him on one determined burst, as he shoved Pallister aside and repelled Irwin, that does him less than justice — Tyson would be more fitting.

"It was an easy game to come back in," Pallister said, "because they didn't come to win the game. They didn't give us any space in their half, and for a long time it looked like being a 0-0 draw."

If that meant Pallister had a gentle enough come back, it provided a real test for the United attack. Giggs picked up the gauntlet, running at defenders with zest.

"Ryan was on fire against Juventus and again today," Pallister said. "He gives us that real edge which we've perhaps been missing. When he goes at players like he did today, you just don't want to be a defender. He can run so quickly with the ball and change pace and direction so quickly, it's awesome."

Giggs: ready for Vienna

However, with Cantona still not sparking, there was for some time little end product. Finally, a tactical switch, moving Keane to play out wide, had the desired effect as the Ireland international powered past Izzet to the byline and Butt got in front of Keller to run in his low cross.

The last 15 minutes were a different game. "Once the breakthrough came, it looked as if we could score every time we went forward," Ferguson said, "but that's what happens in these games. I think, when we scored, their legs went, and there was some exciting stuff at the end. It was then a question of how many."

The answer was two more. Pallister hit a long ball over Grayson for Giggs to burst onto and drag back for Solskjaer; then Butt chested Cantona's return past Watts before beating Keller.

Between the two, Giggs had been replaced by Poborsky, and the Czech international's mistake let Lennon claim some reward for an outstanding display in midfield. "I took Giggs off because, at that stage in the game, for players who have had calf strains, tiredness comes into it, and I wasn't prepared to take a risk," Ferguson said. "He's an important player for us, and I need him really badly on Wednesday."

There can be little doubt about that. But if Giggs and Pallister will give United extra confidence for Wednesday, they are still searching for a leader in attack. Solskjaer proved he is nearer to being the answer than Cruyff, and will start in Vienna. With luck, he may see them through that test, but in the long term, a more commanding figure, a Shearer or a Ravanelli, is needed.

Ronaldo? "He's cup-tied, he has already played in Europe for Barcelona," Ferguson said yesterday. Come back, Andy Cole, all is forgiven.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, N Butt, R Keane, R Giggs (sub: K Poborsky, 85min) — E Cantona — J Cruyff (sub: O-G Solskjaer, 57).

LEICESTER CITY (5-3-1-1): K Keller — S Grayson, S Prior, J Watts, I Marshall, M Izzet — N Lennon, G Parker, S Campbell — S Claridge — E Heskey

Referee: M Bodenham.

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Aston Villa: M Oakes, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke.

Middlesbrough: G Walsh, N Cox, D Whyte, G Fleming, P Stamp, C Hignett, C Morris, R Mustoe, M Beck, Juninho (sub: A Campbell, 59min), F Ravanelli

Referee: G Willard

BLACKBURN (1) 2 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 1
Sherwood 27; Sutton 87 — Oakley 61 (Ostenstad 61); 23,018

Sent off: U van Gobbel (Southampton) 81

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, K Gallacher (sub: G Donis, 72min), J Wilcox, C Sutton, W McKinlay (sub: L Bohinen, 65min), H Berg, G Flitcroft.

Southampton: C Woods (sub: D Beasant, 16min), J Dodd, J Magilton, K Monkou, N Maddison (sub: M Robinson, 59min), S Charlton, M Oakley, R Dryden, E Berkovic (sub: C Lundekvam, 85min), E Ostenstad, U van Gobbel.

Referee: R Dilkes.

DERBY (1) 2 **COVENTRY** (1) 1
Asanovic 12 (pen); Ward 79 — Dublin 43; 18,042

Derby County: R Hoult, J Laursen, D Yates, G Rowett, P McGrath (sub: C Daily, 71min), I Stimac, S Flynn, C Powell, A Asanovic (sub: L Carsley, 89min), D Sturridge, A Ward.

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, L Daish, E Jess, N Whelan, D Dublin, G McAllister, J Salako (sub: G Strachan, 85min), P Telfer, D Huckerby

Referee: M Riley

EVERTON (0) 1 **SUNDERLAND** (0) 3
Ferguson 64; 40,087 — Russell 54; Bridges 74, 87

Everton: N Southall, E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe (sub: C Short, 80min), A Kanchelskis (sub: M Branch, 62min), J Parkinson, A Grant (sub: D Ferguson, 52min), G Speed, G Stuart, N Barmby

Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall, K Ball, M Scott, A Melville, D Kubicki, P Bracewell, M Smith (sub: M Gray, 78min), C Russell (sub: M Bridges, 70min), A Rae (sub: S Agnew, 82min), D Kelly.

Referee: P Jones

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 3 **LEICESTER** (0) 1
Butt 75, 87; Solskjaer 85 — Lennon 90; 55,196

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, D May, G Pallister, E Cantona, N Butt, D Beckham, R Giggs (sub: K Poborsky, 85min), J Cruyff (sub: O G Solskjaer, 58min), R Keane.

Leicester City: C Keller, S Grayson, S Prior, J Watts, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Campbell (sub: N Lewis, 83min), I Marshall, S Claridge, E Heskey.

Referee: M Bodenham.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 **ARSENAL** (1) 2
Shearer 21; 36,565 — Dixon 11; Wright 60

Sent off: A Adams (Arsenal) 22

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, D Peacock, P Albert, R Elliott, K Gillespie, D Batty, R Lee (sub: S Watson, 77min), P Beardsley, D Ginola, F Asprilla (sub: P Kitson, 46min), A Shearer

Arsenal: J Lukic, L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, M Keown (sub: S Morrow, 74min), N Winterburn, P Vieira, D Platt, P Merson (sub: R Parlour, 82min), J Hartson (sub: A Linighan, 29min), I Wright.

Referee: G Barber.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0 **WEST HAM** (0) 0
22,321

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan (sub: S Oakes, 46min), M Pembridge, D Walker, G Whittingham, B Carbone, A Booth, G Hyde, L Briscoe (sub: S Nicol, 40min), O Trustfull (sub: R Humphreys, 70min)

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, I Bishop, M Rieper, K Rowland, I Dowie, J Moncur, M Hughes (sub: S Lazaridis, 89min), F Lampard, S Bilic.

Referee: P Durkin.

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 0
Earle 37; 12,608

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, O Leonhardsen (sub: M Harford, 84min), R Earle, E Ekoku (sub: A Clarke, 72min), M Gayle (sub: D Holdsworth, 72min), C Perry, N Ardley

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle (sub: J Lee, 72min), S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, D Saunders, K Campbell, C Allen, A-I Haaland, S Blatherwick

Referee: M Reed

Yesterday

LEEDS (2) 2 **CHELSEA** (0) 0
Deane 8; Rush 10; 32,671

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, C Palmer, L Radebe, D Wetherall, L Sharpe, I Rush, B Deane, L Bowyer, M Ford, P Beesley.

Chelsea: F Grodas, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, G Vialli, M Hughes (sub: F Sinclair, 76min), D Wise (sub: E Newton, 45min), M Duberry, R Di Matteo (sub: R Gullit, 45min), S Minto, G Zola.

Referee: S Dunn.

Shearer: goal for Newcastle

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
I Wright (Arsenal)	12	5	2	19
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)	9	7	0	16
R Fowler (Liverpool)	5	5	3	13
A Shearer (Newcastle)	9	1	1	11
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	7	0	4	11
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	8	2	0	10
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	7	1	0	8
M Gayle (Wimbledon)	6	2	0	8
R Earle (Wimbledon)	7	0	0	7
G Vialli (Chelsea)	7	0	0	7
G Speed (Everton)	6	1	0	7
P Beardsley (Newcastle)	4	1	2	7
P Berger (Liverpool)	4	1	2	7

PREMIER NEWCOMERS

THE PROGRESS of the three newcomers (Leicester City, Derby County and Sunderland) in the FA Carling Premiership this season has thrown up some interesting statistics (Julian Desborough writes). In each of the last three seasons, one of the promoted teams has been in either the bottom position or second from bottom going into the heavy December fixture schedule — Bolton Wanderers (in 1995-96), Leicester (in 1994-95) and Swindon Town (in 1993-94) — and thus clearly earmarked as most likely to return to the first division.

However, the promoted trio this season are placed in mid-table and clear of the danger zone. Their position mirrors that of the clubs in the first season of the Premiership (in 1992-93). Fourteenth place in that season was not enough to stop Middlesbrough being relegated the following May. Beware Leicester, who are now 14th.

The transition from first division to Premiership is also evident in the fortunes of Middlesbrough, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest and Blackburn Rovers. Their December positions on their Premiership return show how major investment became a necessity to avoid the drop back down.

Position in brackets indicates where the team finished in the first division before being promoted. * denotes team eventually relegated.

1996-97							
9th Derby (2nd)	15	5	6	4	17	17	21
12th Sunderland (1st)	15	4	5	6	13	18	17
14th Leicester (5th)	15	5	2	8	14	21	17
1995-96							
8th Middlesbro (1st)	15	7	5	3	14	9	26
* 20th Bolton (3rd)	15	2	2	11	14	30	8
1994-95							
5th Nottm Forest (2nd)	16	8	4	4	25	16	28
* 13th C Palace (1st)	16	5	5	6	15	18	20
* 21st Leicester (4th)	16	3	3	10	17	29	12
1993-94							
6th Newcastle (1st)	17	8	4	5	32	17	28
10th West Ham (2nd)	17	6	5	6	13	16	23
* 22nd Swindon (5th)	17	1	6	10	14	38	9
1992-93							
2nd Blackburn (6th)	17	8	7	2	26	12	31
10th Ipswich (1st)	17	5	10	2	22	19	25
* 14th Middlesbro (2nd)	17	5	6	6	27	27	21

F.A. CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Arsenal	15	5	2	0	17	5	4	2	2	12	8	31	+16
2 Newcastle	15	5	1	2	19	10	4	1	2	7	7	29	+9
3 Liverpool	14	4	3	0	13	5	4	1	2	11	8	28	+11
4 Wimbledon	15	5	2	1	17	10	3	2	2	9	6	28	+10
5 Man Utd	15	5	2	1	16	8	2	3	2	13	14	26	+7
6 Aston Villa	15	5	2	1	11	5	2	1	4	8	10	24	+4
7 Chelsea	15	3	3	1	11	8	3	3	2	12	13	24	+2
8 Everton	15	4	1	3	16	9	2	4	1	7	9	23	+5
9 Derby	15	4	2	2	11	9	1	4	2	6	8	21	0
10 Sheff Wed	15	3	4	1	8	6	2	2	3	8	12	21	-2
11 Tottenham	14	3	2	2	7	5	3	0	4	8	9	20	+1
12 Leeds	15	4	0	4	8	9	2	1	4	7	11	19	-5
13 Sunderland	15	2	4	1	6	5	2	1	5	7	13	17	-5
14 West Ham	15	3	2	2	8	8	1	3	4	5	10	17	-5
15 Leicester	15	3	0	4	7	11	2	2	4	7	10	17	-7
16 Middlesbro	15	2	3	2	13	11	1	2	5	7	15	14	-6
17 Southamptn	15	3	2	2	15	8	0	2	6	8	20	13	-5
18 Blackburn	15	2	2	4	8	10	0	4	3	7	10	12	-5
19 Coventry	15	1	3	3	4	8	0	4	4	5	13	10	-12
20 Nottm For	15	0	4	3	5	11	1	2	5	7	14	9	-13

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON (1) 2 **BARNSLEY** (1) 2
Blake 33; Thompson 88 — Redfearn 25 (pen), 79; 16,852

BRADFORD (1) 1 **WEST BROMWICH** (1) 1
Sas 31; 12,003 — Groves 24

GRIMSBY (1) 2 **CRYSTAL PALACE** (1) 1
Livingstone 10; Rodger 81 — Shipperley 5; 5,115

NORWICH (0) 0 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 1
12,764 — O'Connor 62

OXFORD UTD (0) 0 **CHARLTON** (0) 2
7,080 — Barness 47; Whyte 50

PORT VALE (0) 0 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 0
6,026

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 **STOKE** (0) 0
Turner 4 — 7,749

QPR (1) 1 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 0
Barker 36 (pen) — 11,891

SOUTHEND (1) 1 **OLDHAM** (0) 1
Nielsen 10; 5,001 — Richardson 54 (pen)

SWINDON (2) 3 **READING** (1) 1
Horlock 5; Allison 25; Walters 87 — Morley 13; 10,874

TRANMERE (1) 3 **IPSWICH** (0) 0
Brannan 43; Aldridge 76, 80 — 10,127

Yesterday

WOLVERHAMPTON (0) 3 **MANCHESTER CITY** (0) 0
Roberts 46, 54; Dennison 80 — 23,911

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 3 **LUTON** (2) 2
Robinson 17, 80; Cox 78; 4,322 — James 24; Marshall 44

BRISTOL ROVERS (3) 4 **BURY** (2) 3
Beadle 30, 39, 40; Clark 46; 4,496 — Pugh 44; Johnson 45; Carter 83 (pen)

CREWE (2) 5 **SHREWSBURY** (1) 1
Murphy 33; Smith 35; Rivers 56, 59; Whalley 78 — Stevens 17; 4,035

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 2 **BRISTOL CITY** (0) 0
Arkins 65; Robinson 75 — 4,693

PETERBOROUGH (3) 6 **ROTHERHAM** (2) 2
Carruthers 20, 69; Willis 44, 48; Houghton 44 (pen); Hoolington 60 (og) — Blades 9; Sandeman 30; 4,690

Sent off: I Breckin (Rotherham) 70

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 **BURNLEY** (0) 0
6,289

PRESTON (0) 1 **GILLINGHAM** (0) 0
Davey 88 — 9,616

STOCKPORT (1) 2 **WALSALL** (0) 0
Angell 35, 51 — 5,333

WATFORD (0) 2 **BLACKPOOL** (1) 2
Millen 62; Noel-Williams 69; 12,017 — Mellon 11; Bryan 73

WREXHAM (1) 1 **WYCOMBE** (0) 0
Skinner 1 — 3,280

YORK (0) 0 **CHESTERFIELD** (0) 0
3,328

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Millwall 0 Brentford 0

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (0) 2 **BARNET** (0) 1
Archdeacon 49; Conway 77 — Hodges 84; 4,472

COLCHESTER (3) 7 **LINCOLN** (0) 1
Abrahams 19; Taylor 42 (pen), 45 (pen); Whitton 62; Adcock 83; Fry 87, 90 — Martin 64; 2,738

DARLINGTON (0) 3 **NORTHAMPTON** (1) 1
Shaw 46; Roberts 73, 77 — Cooper 39; 2,266

DONCASTER (0) 2 **CAMBRIDGE UTD** (1) 1
Cramb 58; Ireland 88 — Beall 40; 1,608

FULHAM (0) 2 **BRIGHTON** (0) 0
Conroy 61; Blake 73 (pen) — 8,279

HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 **EXETER** (1) 1
Irvine 31; 1,419 — Blake 41

HEREFORD (0) 1 **CHESTER** (1) 2
Smith 56 (pen); 2,210 — Norton 30 (og); Flitcroft 90

HULL (0) 1 **WIGAN** (0) 1
Darby 77; 3,537 — Jones 53

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 3 **CARDIFF** (0) 0
Griffiths 34; McGleish 57; Arnott 64 — 4,503

Sent off: C Griffiths (Leyton Orient) 66; K O'Halloran (Cardiff) 74

MANSFIELD (0) 2 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 0
Wood 82, 86 — 1,981

ROCHDALE (0) 1 **SCUNTHORPE** (1) 2
Painter 75; 1,369 — Baker 18; Eyre 83

SWANSEA (1) 2 **TORQUAY** (0) 0
O'Leary 14; Torpey 50 — 2,889

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 17: McGinlay (Bolton). 14: Aldridge (Tranmere), Blake (Bolton), Sheron (Stoke). 13: Jemson (Oxford Utd). 12: Hopkin (Crystal Palace). 11: Bull (Wolverhampton). 10: Morley (Reading), Freedman (Crystal Palace), Mendonca (Grimsby), Naylor (Port Vale).
SECOND DIVISION: 13: Stevens (Shrewsbury). 12: Asaba (Brentford), Angell (Stockport), Thorpe (Luton). 11: Goater (Bristol City), Nogan (Burnley), Tolson (York), Carter (Bury). 10: Onuora (Gillingham), Pepper (York), Lightbourne (Walsall), Quinn (Blackpool), Reeves (Preston, four for Carlisle).
THIRD DIVISION: 17: Conroy (Fulham). 15: Jones (Wigan), Devine (Barnet). 14: Baker (Scunthorpe, seven for Torquay). 12: Ainsworth (Lincoln), Ritchie (Scarborough), Darby (Hull). 11: White (Cardiff), Roberts (Darlington), Clarkson (Scunthorpe). 10: Lancashire (Wigan).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC (1) 2 **HEARTS** (1) 2
O'Neil 43; Di Canio 77 (pen); 50,034 — Cameron 31; McCann 64

Sent off: P Di Canio (Celtic) 77

DUNDEE UTD (0) 1 **DUNFERMLINE** (0) 1
Winters 70; 7,646 — Smith 87

HIBERNIAN (1) 2 **MOTHERWELL** (0) 0
Jackson 35, 90 (pen) — 7,332

RAITH (0) 1 **KILMARNOCK** (0) 0
Lennon 90 — 3,749

Sent off: J McIntyre (Kilmarnock) 36

Yesterday

ABERDEEN (0) 0 **RANGERS** (1) 3
21,500 — Robertson 38; Laudrup 77; Miller 86

FIRST DIVISION

CLYDEBANK (0) 0 **DUNDEE** (0) 0
470

FALKIRK (2) 2 **EAST FIFE** (1) 1
McGrillen 5; Ferguson 7 — Allan 36 (pen); 2,330

PARTICK (0) 0 **G MORTON** (0) 0
3,504

ST JOHNSTONE (2) 5 **STIRLING** (0) 0
Davidson 22; O'Boyle 30, 67; Tosh 54; Grant 87 — 3,520

ST MIRREN (0) 2 **AIRDRIE** (1) 3
Fenwick 71, 78; 3,704 — Davies 18; McPhee 49; Black 60

Sent off: S Cooper (Airdrie) 57

SECOND DIVISION

AYR (1) 1 **DUMBARTON** (0) 4
English 21; 1,773 — McKinnon 49; Glancy 55, 65; Ward 83

Sent off: S Kerrigan (Ayr) 39

BERWICK (0) 0 **BRECHIN** (0) 0
376

CLYDE (1) 2 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 0
Mathieson 22; Annand 90 — 1,123

QUEEN OF SOUTH (1) 3 **STRANRAER** (1) 2
Rowe 6, 60, 88; 1,284 — Sloan 35, 51

Sent off: J McCaffrey (Stranraer) 45; G Millar (Stranraer) 88

POSTPONED: Hamilton v Stenhousemuir.

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA (0) 2 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 1
Irvine 60; McAneny 76 — Hardy 52; 449

ARBROATH (0) 1 **INVERNESS CT** (2) 4
Grant 84; 459 — Wilson 9; Addicoat 44; Stewart 57; Christie 85

MONTROSE (1) 2 **ALBION** (0) 1
McGlashan 11, 61; 634 — McKilligan 78

ROSS COUNTY (0) 1 **EAST STIRLING** (0) 1
Adams 69; 1,261 — Sneddon 57

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

BROMSGROVE (0) 2 **MORECAMBE** (2) 3
Gardner 74; Amos 88; 652 — Norman 12; Jackson 45; Monk 46

FARNBOROUGH (2) 3 **SOUTHPORT** (0) 3
Wingfield 22; Gavin 45; Boothe 60; 707 — Whittaker 67; Gamble 70; Butler 79

HALIFAX (0) 2 **KETTERING** (1) 1
Horsfield 61; Davison 74 — Norman 37 (pen); 790

HAYES (0) 0 **GATESHEAD** (0) 0
404

HEDNESFORD (2) 2 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 1
O'Connor 5; Lawrence 43 — Arnold 55; 1,035

Sent off: D Williams (Stalybridge) 24

RUSHDEN & D (1) 4 **BATH** (0) 1
Collins 5; Wilkin 47, 81; Capone 64 — Paul 76; 1,853

SLOUGH (0) 0 **MACCLESFIELD** (0) 0
1,096

STEVENAGE (0) 4 **DOVER** (1) 1
Catlin 46; Trebble 63; Adams 77; Hayles 86 — Strouts 45; 2,009

TELFORD (0) 0 **KIDDERMINSTER** (1) 2
1,860 — Doherty 45; Hughes 62

Sent off: B Wilcox (Telford) 31

WELLING (1) 1 **NORTHWICH** (0) 1
Dennis 41 (pen); 527 — Walters 87

Sent off: J Farley (Welling) 79; E Bishop (Northwich) 30

WOKING (4) 7 **ALTRINCHAM** (1) 1
Foster 5; Walker 14; Taylor 25; Thompson 30; Harris 52 (og); Hay 57, 84 — Hardy 21; 2,701

Sent off: A Morgan (Altrincham) 83

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Kiddrmnstr	21	7	2	2	22	12	7	1	2	19	6	45
2 Macclsfld	21	6	3	1	12	5	5	4	2	17	7	40
3 Woking	20	6	3	2	26	14	4	3	2	14	11	36
4 Stevenage	19	8	0	1	27	10	3	2	4	9	14	35
5 Slough	21	6	3	3	29	11	4	1	4	10	14	34
6 Morecambe	18	4	2	2	14	8	6	2	2	21	14	34
7 Farnborough	17	3	3	3	14	14	6	1	1	13	4	31
8 Northwich	20	6	1	3	11	7	3	3	4	9	17	31
9 Hednesford	18	5	3	2	14	6	3	2	3	12	12	29
10 Telford	22	4	2	5	12	16	4	2	5	11	13	28
11 Southport	17	4	2	2	10	9	3	3	3	10	10	26
12 Altrncham	21	4	2	5	12	15	2	5	3	11	21	25
13 Kettering	19	3	3	3	15	11	3	1	6	12	17	22
14 Gateshead	19	2	3	3	12	13	3	3	5	16	20	21
15 Stalybridge	18	4	1	3	12	8	2	2	6	9	18	21
16 Welling	17	3	1	4	10	14	2	4	3	12	15	20
17 Dover	19	2	5	2	13	18	1	4	5	10	17	18
18 Rushden & D	19	2	4	3	11	12	2	1	7	12	22	17
19 Bromsgrove	20	4	2	4	19	15	1	0	9	4	21	17
20 Halifax	18	4	2	4	17	18	0	3	5	5	17	17
21 Bath	19	3	2	4	3	12	0	5	5	12	22	16
22 Hayes	18	2	5	3	7	8	0	2	6	6	16	13

Daniel Eschbach, the Cologne goalkeeper, leaps to deny Bayer Leverkusen in the *Bundesliga* match between the two teams on Saturday. Leverkusen won 4-2.

EUROPEAN

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Yesterday: Atalanta 2 Napoli 2; Juventus 1 Bologna 0; Perugia 1 Vicenza 1; Piacenza 3 AC Milan 2; Reggiana 0 Lazio 2; Udinese 3 AC Parma 1; Verona 1 Sampdoria 1. Saturday: Internazionale 2 Cagliari 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vicenza	11	6	3	2	20	11	21
Internazionale	11	5	5	1	15	10	20
Juventus	10	5	4	1	12	7	19
Bologna	11	6	1	4	19	15	19
Napoli	11	4	5	2	16	16	17
Sampdoria	11	4	4	3	16	10	16
Perugia	11	5	1	5	16	16	16
* Roma	10	4	3	3	17	13	15
Milan	11	4	3	4	17	14	15
Udinese	10	4	3	3	13	11	15
Lazio	11	4	3	4	12	11	15
Piacenza	11	4	3	4	13	15	15
* Fiorentina	10	3	5	2	12	10	14
Parma	11	3	4	4	11	13	13
Atalanta	11	2	4	5	12	21	10
Cagliari	11	2	3	6	13	18	9
Verona	11	1	4	6	11	22	7
Reggiana	11	0	4	7	9	21	4

* not including last night's match

DUTCH LEAGUE: Yesterday: Vitesse Arnhem 1 AZ Alkmaar 0; Ajax Amsterdam 1 FC Groningen 1; RKC Waalwijk 2 Sparta Rotterdam 0. Saturday: Heerenveen 2 Utrecht 2; NAC Breda 2 Graafschap Doetinchem 1; Willem II Tilburg 0 Roda JC Kerkrade 1; PSV Eindhoven 4 NEC Nijmegen 1.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Yesterday: Sevilla 0 Deportivo La Coruña 1; Logroñes 3 Hercules 2; Compostela 0 Betis 2; Zaragoza 1 Oviedo 0; Real Sociedad 1 Español 0. Saturday: Atlético Madrid 1 Racing Santander 0; Sporting Gijon 0 Real Madrid 1; Valencia 2 Celta Vigo 0; Tenerife 1 Rayo Vallecano 2.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Saturday: Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 Duisburg 1; Hansa Rostock 3 Arminia Bielefeld 1; Freiburg 2 Schalke 3; 1860 Munich 1 Karlsruhe 1; Fortuna Düsseldorf 4 Bremen 1; Bayer Leverkusen 4 Cologne 2. Friday: Borussia Dortmund 1 SV Hamburg 1.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Yesterday: Salgueiros 1 Belenenses 2; Amadora 3 Chaves 0; Sporting 0 Leiria 0; Espinho 1 Gil Vicente 0; Farense 2 Braga 2; Maritimo 1 Guimaraes 2. Saturday: Rio Ave 0 Benfica 1. Friday: Leca 2 Porto 4; Boavista 0 Setubal 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Friday: Caen 1 Paris Saint-Germain 3; Lille 0 Auxerre 1; Guingamp 2 Bastia 1; Marseilles 0 Le Havre 0; Strasbourg 3 Lyons 0; Nancy 1 Lens 1; Nantes 5 Cannes 1; Nice 3 Rennes 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Yesterday: Mouscron 3 Alost 2; Cercle Bruges 1 Charleroi 0; Harelbeke 3 Molenbeek 0. Saturday: Lommel 1 Lokeren 0; Anderlecht 0 Mechelen 0; Royal Antwerp 2 Eeklo 0; Lierse 2 Standard Liège 1; Sint Truiden 1 Genk 1. Friday: Ghent 1 FC Bruges 3.

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	21	8	3	0	25	9	3	5	2	18	19	41	(43)
2 C Palace	20	5	2	2	21	8	4	5	2	23	12	34	(44)
3 Barnsley	19	5	3	2	19	12	4	4	1	16	14	34	(35)
4 Sheff Utd	19	4	4	1	17	9	5	2	3	17	10	33	(34)
5 Tranmere	20	6	2	3	23	15	3	3	3	8	7	32	(31)
6 Wolvrhmptn	20	3	3	5	12	12	6	2	1	17	9	32	(29)
7 Norwich	19	4	5	2	13	8	5	0	3	14	11	32	(27)
8 Birmingham	20	6	2	1	14	5	2	4	5	9	16	30	(23)
9 Swindon	21	7	1	3	22	9	2	1	7	10	17	29	(32)
10 Oxford Utd	21	6	3	2	18	6	2	2	6	7	13	29	(25)
11 Portsmouth	21	5	3	3	15	10	2	2	6	10	18	26	(25)
12 Charlton	19	5	2	2	13	10	3	0	7	8	18	26	(21)
13 Ipswich	21	4	4	2	17	15	2	3	6	10	17	25	(27)
14 QPR	21	3	3	5	11	14	3	4	3	12	14	25	(23)
15 Huddersfld	20	5	3	2	15	8	1	4	5	7	17	25	(22)
16 Port Vale	21	2	6	3	10	11	3	4	3	8	11	25	(18)
17 West Brom	20	1	4	4	9	14	4	5	2	17	17	24	(26)
18 Stoke	18	4	1	2	12	12	2	5	4	12	18	24	(24)
19 Southend	21	4	4	3	19	17	1	5	4	4	18	24	(23)
20 Reading	20	5	3	1	13	10	1	2	8	10	22	23	(23)
21 Man City	21	5	1	4	13	12	2	1	8	10	21	23	(23)
22 Bradford	21	4	3	4	13	19	1	3	6	6	15	21	(19)
23 Grimsby	21	3	2	6	12	21	2	3	5	12	20	20	(24)
24 Oldham	21	2	5	3	11	11	2	3	6	12	15	20	(23)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Millwall	21	8	2	1	18	9	3	5	2	14	12	40	(32)
2 Brentford	21	5	5	0	21	13	5	2	4	12	10	37	(33)
3 Bury	20	7	3	0	18	5	3	3	4	12	15	36	(30)
4 Wrexham	19	6	3	0	16	9	3	5	2	11	11	35	(27)
5 Watford	20	4	5	2	11	10	5	3	1	12	7	35	(23)
6 Luton	20	8	0	2	17	6	2	4	4	15	19	34	(32)
7 Crewe	20	9	0	2	23	7	2	1	6	5	12	34	(28)
8 Burnley	21	8	0	2	20	11	2	4	5	8	11	34	(28)
9 Chesterfld	20	5	2	2	10	7	5	2	4	10	8	34	(20)
10 Stockport	21	6	3	2	12	7	3	3	4	16	18	33	(28)
11 Bristol City	20	7	1	2	24	6	2	4	4	11	16	32	(35)
12 Bristol R	21	6	3	2	16	10	1	4	5	6	12	28	(22)
13 Shrewsbury	21	4	2	4	10	13	3	3	5	15	19	26	(25)
14 York	20	4	3	3	13	11	3	2	5	10	16	26	(23)
15 Preston	21	6	3	2	15	11	1	1	8	6	13	25	(21)
16 Blackpool	21	3	5	1	11	8	2	4	6	9	14	24	(20)
17 Bournemth	21	4	1	6	11	14	3	2	5	8	12	24	(19)
18 Plymouth	21	3	6	2	10	10	2	1	7	12	19	22	(22)
19 Walsall	20	5	3	2	14	7	1	1	8	6	18	22	(20)
20 Gillingham	21	4	2	4	13	12	2	2	7	6	14	22	(19)
21 Peterboro	21	2	5	4	23	21	2	3	5	8	18	20	(31)
22 Notts Co	20	3	3	4	11	10	2	2	6	4	11	20	(15)
23 Rotherham	20	3	4	3	8	7	0	2	8	10	25	15	(18)
24 Wycombe	21	3	2	5	8	10	0	3	8	8	23	14	(16)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Fulham	21	8	0	3	20	9	7	2	1	15	6	47	(35)
2 Carlisle	21	7	2	2	18	9	4	4	2	13	10	39	(31)
3 Camb Utd	21	7	1	2	17	10	5	2	4	14	16	39	(31)
4 Wigan	20	8	1	1	22	9	3	3	4	13	14	37	(35)
5 Cardiff	20	6	1	3	16	10	4	3	3	8	9	34	(24)
6 Barnet	21	5	4	1	16	7	3	3	5	7	10	31	(23)
7 Colchester	21	5	5	1	20	10	2	4	4	11	15	30	(31)
8 Scarboro	20	4	4	2	14	12	3	4	3	15	14	29	(29)
9 Lincoln	21	4	4	2	13	9	4	1	6	14	23	29	(27)
10 Chester	20	5	2	3	14	10	3	3	4	8	12	29	(22)
11 Swansea	21	6	3	2	16	8	2	2	6	6	16	29	(22)
12 Hull	21	3	5	3	11	14	3	6	1	8	6	29	(19)
13 Scunthorpe	21	5	1	4	15	14	3	3	5	11	15	28	(26)
14 Torquay	21	6	1	3	12	7	2	3	6	10	16	28	(22)
15 Northamptn	21	4	3	3	16	10	3	3	5	13	15	27	(29)
16 Exeter	21	4	3	3	12	10	3	1	7	8	17	25	(20)
17 Doncaster	21	5	1	5	14	13	2	2	6	9	16	24	(23)
18 Mansfield	20	3	3	4	8	7	2	6	2	12	13	24	(20)
19 Rochdale	20	5	2	3	14	8	0	6	4	12	18	23	(26)
20 L Orient	20	4	4	2	9	4	2	1	7	7	15	23	(16)
21 Hartlepool	20	2	4	4	13	15	4	0	6	9	11	22	(22)
22 Hereford	21	4	3	4	14	11	2	1	7	8	19	22	(22)
23 Darlington	21	4	3	4	16	14	1	1	8	11	23	19	(27)
24 Brighton	21	2	4	4	12	16	1	0	10	4	23	13	(16)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	13	5	1	0	14	2	5	1	1	17	7	32	+22
2 Celtic	13	5	1	1	18	5	3	2	1	13	8	27	+18
3 Aberdeen	14	4	2	2	16	10	2	2	2	9	7	22	+8
4 Hearts	14	3	3	0	9	5	2	2	4	9	14	20	-1
5 Hibernian	14	3	1	4	7	11	2	2	2	6	10	18	-8
6 Dunfermline	13	3	2	1	11	10	1	3	3	6	14	17	-7
7 Dundee Utd	14	2	3	3	6	7	1	2	3	9	10	14	-2
8 Motherwell	14	1	2	3	5	9	2	3	3	10	13	14	-7
9 Kilmarnock	13	2	1	3	12	16	1	1	5	5	11	11	-10
10 Raith	14	2	2	3	9	14	1	0	6	5	13	11	-13

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 St Johnston	16	6	2	1	18	2	5	0	2	16	6	35	+26
2 Falkirk	16	6	1	1	14	5	3	1	4	4	8	29	+5
3 Airdrie	16	1	4	2	10	10	5	4	0	16	6	26	+10
4 Partick	16	3	5	1	12	6	3	1	3	11	10	24	+7
5 Dundee	15	3	0	4	6	7	3	5	0	4	1	23	+2
6 St Mirren	16	4	0	4	10	10	3	2	3	12	11	23	+1
7 G Morton	15	4	3	1	10	6	2	1	4	7	8	22	+3
8 Clydebank	16	4	1	3	9	11	0	1	7	2	14	14	-14
9 Stirling	16	3	1	4	9	11	0	2	6	9	22	12	-15
10 East Fife	14	1	2	3	7	16	0	2	6	3	19	7	-25

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Ayr	16	5	1	3	16	11	6	1	0	14	7	35	+12
2 Livingston	15	6	1	0	15	3	3	3	2	10	9	31	+13
3 Hamilton	14	4	1	1	15	6	4	3	1	11	4	28	+16
4 Clyde	15	3	1	4	8	12	3	3	1	13	8	22	+1
5 Queen of S	16	4	2	2	13	14	2	2	4	11	13	22	-3
6 Stenhsmuir	14	1	3	4	4	7	3	2	1	13	3	17	+7
7 Stranraer	14	2	1	3	5	7	3	1	4	8	13	17	-7
8 Dumbarton	16	1	4	3	10	14	3	0	5	8	15	16	-11
9 Brechin	14	1	3	3	5	9	1	3	3	7	6	12	-3
10 Berwick	16	1	2	5	8	20	0	1	7	8	21	6	-25

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Inverness CT	16	4	2	1	11	6	4	3	2	17	14	29	+8
2 Montrose	16	5	2	2	15	11	4	0	3	11	10	29	+5
3 Ross Co	16	3	2	3	11	11	5	0	3	12	8	26	+4
4 Cowdenbth	15	3	2	2	10	8	4	1	3	12	8	24	+6
5 Albion	15	4	3	1	12	7	2	3	2	9	8	24	+6
6 Forfar	15	4	2	2	14	10	2	2	3	12	14	22	+2
7 Alloa	15	3	2	2	12	11	3	2	3	10	10	22	+1
8 Queen's Pk	16	2	2	4	10	17	1	3	4	10	13	14	-10
9 Arbroath	16	2	2	5	8	14	0	4	3	4	9	12	-11
10 East Stirling	16	2	2	3	7	9	0	3	6	7	16	11	-11

NON-LEAGUE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Atherstone 0; Halesowen 1 Gresley 1; Merthyr 4 Baldock 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	17	10	7	0	30	11	37
Gloucester City	19	12	1	6	40	24	37
Halesowen	19	11	3	5	38	24	36
Burton	17	9	4	4	29	19	31
Cheltenham	15	9	2	4	29	15	29
Salisbury	18	8	5	5	26	24	29
Merthyr	17	8	4	5	33	27	28
Sudbury Tn	16	8	2	6	33	26	26
King's Lynn	18	7	5	6	22	26	26
Nuneaton	16	7	2	7	20	18	23
Worcester City	17	6	4	7	28	26	22
Newport AFC	18	5	5	8	20	28	20
Cambridge City	16	5	4	7	26	24	19
Sittingbourne	16	5	4	7	27	28	19
Atherstone	17	5	4	8	19	25	19
Baldock Tn	17	5	4	8	25	33	19
Crawley Town	18	5	4	9	20	30	19
Ashford Town	15	3	7	5	20	28	16
Hastings	16	4	4	8	25	34	16
Dorchester	16	4	4	8	21	31	16
Gravesend & N	16	3	4	9	22	34	13
Chelmsford	18	2	7	9	21	36	13

MIDLAND DIVISION: Corby 2 Sutton Coldfield Town 0; Tamworth 6 RC Warwick 0; VS Rugby 2 Stourbridge 1. Southern division: Bashley 0 Tonbridge Angels 2; Cirencester 1 Cinderford 4; Erith and Belvedere 1 Waterlooville 2; Forest Green 4 Yate 0; Margate 2 Fareham 0; Trowbridge 0 Weston-super-Mare 4; Witney 1 Havant 2; Buckingham Town 1 Clevedon 2. Cup: Second round: Paget 0 Ilkeston 3

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Hyde 3 Chorley 2; Leek 4 Bamber Bridge 1; Winsford 1 Guiseley 1; Witton 1 Boston 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hyde Utd	22	11	9	2	46	26	42
Leek Town	19	11	5	3	36	18	38
Blyth Spartans	20	11	4	5	30	18	37
Barrow	21	11	3	7	32	21	36
Boston Utd	19	10	5	4	31	16	35
Marine	21	9	8	4	28	24	35
Emley	20	9	7	4	37	24	34
Bishop Auckland	18	8	7	3	28	17	31
Guiseley	21	9	4	8	31	26	31
Knowsley	21	8	7	6	36	33	31
Chorley	23	8	6	9	38	35	30
Runcorn	19	8	5	6	27	31	29
Accrington S	20	7	7	6	33	32	28
Winsford Utd	22	6	8	8	27	28	26
Gainsborough	18	7	4	7	25	22	25
Spennymoor	22	6	6	10	32	29	24
Colwyn Bay	21	6	6	9	26	29	24
Frickley	15	4	5	6	23	30	17
Lancaster	15	4	4	7	19	28	16
Witton Alb	20	3	7	10	19	37	16
Alfreton Town	20	2	8	10	20	37	14
Bamber Bridge	17	1	4	12	14	44	7
Buxton	18	1	3	14	8	41	6

FIRST DIVISION: Curzon Ashton 2 Farsley Celtic 4; Great Harwood 4 Flixton 1; Gretna 3 Matlock Town 3; Harrogate Town 4 Droylsden 4; Leigh 1 Atherton LR 0; Netherfield 1 Lincoln United 1; Warrington 0 Whitley Bay 1.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood 1 Basildon 2; Ford United 1 Great Wakering 1; Hullbridge Sports 8 Eton Manor 0; Sawbridgeworth 1 Burnham Ramblers 4; Southend Manor 0 Saffron Walden 2; Stansted 4 Bowers 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 2 East Cowes 3; Aerostructures 0 Thatcham 2; Brockenhurst 3 Ryde Sports 1; Christchurch 0 Lymington 7; Cowes Sports 3 Bemerton Heath Harl 0; Downton 4 Petersfield 1; Romsey 3 Portsmouth RN 2; Whitchurch 2 Gosport 3; Wimborne Town 1 BAT 0. Postponed: Bournemouth v Andover.

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 2 Chertsey 1; Boreham Wood 1 Hendon 2; Hitchin 0 Enfield 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	11	4	2	38	16	37
Yeovil	16	11	3	2	28	15	36
Oxford City	18	9	3	6	38	33	30
Sutton Utd	14	8	4	2	31	23	28
Dulwich	18	8	3	7	31	25	27
Heybridge	17	8	3	6	22	27	27
Dag and Red	14	7	5	2	18	7	26
Aylesbury	17	7	4	6	17	18	25
Kingstonian	18	7	2	9	31	30	23
Purfleet	18	6	5	7	26	27	23
Yeading	15	6	4	5	23	20	22
Bromley	12	6	2	4	23	14	20
Carshalton	17	5	5	7	18	22	20
Boreham Wood	15	6	1	8	19	23	19
Hitchin	18	5	4	9	20	33	19
St Albans	15	5	3	7	27	27	18
B Stortford	16	5	3	8	15	24	18
Hendon	14	4	4	6	17	18	16
Staines	17	5	1	11	17	28	16
Grays	14	4	3	7	21	23	15
Chertsey Town	17	4	3	10	22	42	15
Harrow Borough	17	3	5	9	22	29	14

FIRST DIVISION: Berkhamsted 2 Leyton Pennant 3; Canvey Island 1 Hampton 0; Maidenhead United 0 Abingdon Town 1; Marlow 0 Walton and Hersham 2; Molesey 1 Uxbridge 1; Thame 2 Billericay 2; Tooting and Mitcham 4 Barton 0; Worthing 4 Whyteleafe 5. Second division: Barking 2 Egham 0; Bedford Town 6 Cheshunt 0; Bracknell 5 Witham 1; Chalfont St Peter 0 Leatherhead 3; Dorking 1 Edgware 6; Metropolitan Police 0 Leighton 1; Wembley 4 Hemel Hempstead 2; Windsor and Eton 4 Tilbury 3; Wivenhoe 3 Hungerford 2. Postponed: Banstead v Ware; Collier Row and Romford v Horsham. Third division: Aveley 4 Southall 1; Camberley 0 Braintree 1; Flackwell Heath 0 Clapton 2; Harlow 1 Northwood 3; Hertford 2 Epsom and Ewell 1; Lewes 1 Hornchurch 0; Tring 0 Wingate and Finchley 3; Wealdstone 5 Kingsbury 0.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round: Mossley 2 Morpeth 0. Second round replay: Taunton 2 Paulton 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham Town 1 Folkestone Invicta 1; Canterbury City 1 Slade Green 1; Cray Wanderers 3 Tunbridge Wells 1; Deal Town 6 Crockenhill 2; Furness 2 Chatham Town 2; Greenwich Borough 2 Herne Bay 3; Hythe United 1 Sheppey United 1; Lordswood 2 Faversham Town 0; Thamesmead Town 0 Ramsgate 2; Woolwich Town 0 Corinthian 1

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Torrington 2 Bristol Manor Farm 2. Les Phillips cup: Backwell 1 Brislington 2; Bridgwater Tn 3 Barnstaple 1; Bridport 0 Chippenham Tn 4; Calne 4 Dawlish 0; Exmouth 3 Glastonbury 0; Mangotsfield 2 Clyst 0; Melksham 2 Frome 1; Minehead 1 Heavitree 1; Pewsey Vale 1 Chard 3; Odd Down 4 Amesbury 1; Westbury 1 Warminster 0. Postponed: Elmore v Ilfracombe; Crediton v Keynsham.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 2 Ashford 4; Bedfont 3 Raynes Park Vale 0; Chipstead 0 Westfield 0; Corinthian Casuals 4 Hartley Wintney 3; Cranleigh 2 Sandhurst 3; Farnham 3 Cobham 1; Feltham 2 Cove 2; Merstham 2 Walton Casuals 0; Netherne 2 Godalming and Guildford 0; Viking Sports 2 Reading 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge 3 Portsmouth 2; Fulham 3 Queens Park Rangers 2; Gillingham 2 Arsenal 0; Ipswich 4 Southend 2; Leyton Orient 0 Millwall 0; Norwich 2 Tottenham 1; West Ham 6 Charlton 0. Second division: Colchester 1 Bristol 3; Luton 2 Brighton 2; Oxford 1 Barnet 4; Reading 0 Bristol 2; Swindon 0 Wycombe 3; Tottenham 2 Bournemouth 3; Wimbledon 2 Crystal Palace 2.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham Town 0 Ruislip Manor 3; Beaconsfield SYCOB 0 Croydon Athletic 1; Harefield United 0 St Margaretsbury 3; Haringey Borough 0 Brook House 1; Hillingdon Boro 1 Barkingside 1. Postponed: Waltham Abbey v Islington St Marys; Woodford Town v Brimsdown Rovers Res.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade 2 Bedford 2; Brache Sparta 2 Letchworth 0; Buckingham Athletic 4 London Colney 1; Potters Bar 1 Hoddesdon 0; Royston 3 Langford 1; Toddington 1 Milton Keynes 1; Welwyn Garden 1 Arlesey 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Selsey 0 Burgess Hill 3; Whitehawk 2 Southwick 3. Postponed: Oakwood v Saltdean

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College 4 Highgate 0; Boldmere Swifts 6 Shirley 1; Southam 0 Coleshill 0; Studley BKL 2 David Lloyd 2; Wellesbourne 1 Meir KA 2; West Midland Fire Service 1 Richmond Swifts 3; Worcester 2 Handrahan Timbers 1.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 1 Lambourn Sports 1; Banbury 2 Tuffley 3; Burnham 0 Abingdon United 2; Carterton 4 Highworth 2; Didcot 1 North Leigh 1; Endsleigh 2 Fairford 1; Kintbury 2 Shortwood 0; Swindon Supermarine 1 Brackley 1; Wantage 2 Bicester 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 1 Chadderton 1; Bootle 3 Atherton Collieries 4; Clitheroe 2 St Helens 1; Holker Old Boys 3 Darwen 0; Kidsgrove 1 Penrith 2; Nantwich 1 Glossop North End 2; Newcastle Town 2 Maine Road 0; Prescot Cables 4 Burscough 3; Trafford 1 Eastwood Hanley 2; Vauxhall GM 3 Rossendale 2.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 2 Tow Law 1; Chester-le-Street 4 Murton 1; Crook 3 Dunston Federation 2; Guisborough 0 Consett 0; RTM Newcastle 1 Durham 3; Stockton 1 Billingham Synthonia 3; Whickham 4 West Auckland 2; Whitby 5 Seaham Red Star 0. Postponed: Morpeth v South Shields.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley 0 Brierley Hill 4; Darlaston 0 Stourport 2; Ettingshall HT 4 Westfields 1; Hill Top 0 Malvern 4; Ludlow 0 Stonwich 2; Lye 3 Gornal 1; Stafford 6 Wolverhampton United 1; Wednesfield 4 Wolverhampton Casuals 1. Postponed: Tividale v Walsall Wood.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 6 Sudbury 2; Clacton 3 Sudbury Res 2; Hadleigh 0 Soham 2; Halstead 3 Lowestoft 1; Warboys 2 Tiptree 2; Wisbech 5 Felixstowe P and T 0. Cup: Second round: Brightlingsea 0 Woodbridge 2; Harwich and Parkeston 6 Maldon 2; Histon 4 Stowmarket 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenall 3 Willenhall 3; Bloxwich 4 West Midlands Police 1; Halesowen Harriers 1 Stapenhill 1; Hinckley Athletic 1 Chasetown 1; Knypersley 5 Pershore 0; Oldbury 0 Bridgnorth 3; Rushall Olympic 1 Rocester 1; Sandwell 1 Pelsall Villa 1; Stratford 2 Shifnal 2.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 0 Stotfold 4; Desborough 2 Stamford 1; Eynesbury 4 Northampton Spencer 2; Ford Sports 1 St Neots 2; Holbeach 0 Wellingborough 5; Long Buckby 5 Newport Pagnell 0; Mirrlees Blackstone 4 S and L Corby 0; Potton 3 Cogenhoe 1; Spalding 1 Kempston 0; Wootton 1 Boston 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Norsemen 1 South Bank 0; Old Parmiterians 0 West Wickham 1.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup replay: Bradfieldians 1 Wellingburians 2. Premier division: Carthusians 4 Etonians 3.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Bradford Park Avenue 1 Barrow 1; Marine 0 Gainsborough 1; Runcorn 2 Solihull 1; Moor Green 6 Dudley Town 1; Ashton United 1 Burton 0; Colwyn Bay 1 Frickley 0; Blyth Spartans 7 Bilston 3; Worksop 0 Lancaster 0; Bishop Auckland 2 Stocksbridge Park Steels 1; Spennymoor 1 Radcliffe 0; Bedworth 2 Accrington Stanley 0; Rothwell 1 Workington 7; Knowsley 2 Emley 2; Bromley 1 Worcester 1; Sutton 0 Dorchester 2; Aldershot Town 1 Dag and Red 3; Crawley 0 Chelmsford 2; Yeovil 2 Evesham 0; Carshalton 0 Heybridge Swifts 3; St Leonards Stamcroft 6 Purfleet 0; Weymouth 2 Ashford 0; Raunds 4 Bognor Regis 2; Harrow 2 Salisbury 2; Sudbury 2 Cheltenham 3; Cambridge City 1 Newport AFC 1; Sittingbourne 0 Yeading 0; Basingstoke 0 Hastings 1; St Albans 3 Kings Lynn 1; Gloucester 3 Kingstonian 1; Fisher 1 Wokingham 2. Postponed: Buxton v Grantham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby 5 Hallam 0; Glasshoughton Welfare 0 Arnold 1; Hatfield Main 0 Maltby MW 1; Liversedge 1 Pontefract Cols 0; North Ferriby 1 Brigg 1; Ossett Albion 0 Belper Town 0; Pickering 0 Ossett Town 1; Sheffield 1 Selby 2; Thackley 1 Armthorpe Welfare 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Latymer OB 0 Old Kingsburians 0; Old Meadonians 0 Old Vaughanians 2; Old Tenisonians 2 Clapham OX 0. Senior first division: Chertsey OS 0 Old Wilsonians 4; Old Danes 0 Enfield OG 4; Old Isleworthians 0 Old Suttonians 2; Old Manorians 2 Old Salvatorians 0.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Old Finchleians 1 Albanian 3. Postponed: Witan v Parkfield.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 4 Ilkeston 1; Southampton 2 Everton 5; Tranmere 2 Croydon 4.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Third round: Sheffield Wednesday 3 Wakefield 2; Blackburn 0 Preston 3; Leeds 2 Aston Villa 6; Highfield 1 Oldham 0; Calverton MW 1 Stockport County 2; Coventry 2 Huddersfield 3; Bangor 2 Newcastle 2; Whitehawk 2 Binfield 1; London 0 Sherborne 5; Oxford 1 Reading Royals 4; Swindon Spitfires 0 Chelsea 1; Three Bridges 1 Leyton Orient 2; Collier Row 3 Birmingham 1; Chelmsford 1 Barnet 1; Okeford 1 Denham 2; Mill Hill 0 Ipswich 1; Brighton and Hove 7 Cabletel 2; Clapton 1 Barry 5. Postponed: Dulwich Hamlet v Berkhamsted.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Postponed: Notts County v Wolverhampton. Southern division: Town and County 0 Wimbledon 7.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1 Holywell 2; Bangor City 3 Flint Town 1; Briton Ferry 2 Conwy 4; Caersws 1 Caernarfon 2; Carmarthen Town 0 Newtown 3; Cwmbran 2 Welshpool 1; Ebbw Vale 3 Ton Pentre 0; Inter Cable-Tel 2 Rhyl 1; Porthmadog 2 Connah's Quay 0.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora Rangers 1 Deveronvale 5; Clachnacuddin 2 Rothes 2; Forres Mechanics 1 Buckie Thistle 0; Fraserburgh 4 Fort William 0; Lossiemouth 3 Keith 1; Nairn County 0 Cove Rangers 4; Peterhead 1 Elgin City 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Friday: Dundalk 2 Bray Wanderers 1; Shamrock Rov 0 St Patricks Ath 1. Saturday: Finn Harps 5 UCD 1; Home Farm 0 Derry 2; Sligo 1 Cork 4. Yesterday: Bohemians 1 Shelbourne 1.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine 0 Cliftonville 1; Crusaders 0 Linfield 1; Glentoran 2 Glenavon 2; Portadown 0 Ards 1. First division: Ballyclare 3 Larne 1; Bangor 3 Omagh 4; Distillery 1 Ballymena 0; Newry 1 Carrick 1.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	1	3	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2

26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: Telephone claims for 23pts; dividend forecast is good with seven score draws and 17 no-score draws. Full-time: Telephone claims for 23 or 24pts, dividend forecast is very good with eight score draws and six no-score draws.

FOOTBALL: NEAL'S POSITION COMES UNDER INCREASING THREAT AFTER CITY FADE IN SECOND HALF

Wolves throw off Molineux shackles

Wolverhampton W 3
Manchester City 0

By Oliver Holt

MIKE HEWITT / ALLSPORT

Roberts is congratulated by Thomas after scoring Wolves' opening goal yesterday. It was Wolves' first home win for nearly three months

THE home supporters left Molineux in relief yesterday, singing and chanting, rejoicing in the knowledge that their influence over their team was not as pernicious as the evidence so far this season had suggested. As they disappeared into the dusk, the club boomed James Brown out across the ground to remind them just what a home win meant. "I feel good," he sang. "I knew that I would."

It was almost like a six-pointer this one, a match-up between Wolverhampton Wanderers, the team that had not won at home for nearly three months, and Manchester City, the side that seems unable to get a result away from Maine Road. It was like a play-off for an unwanted wooden spoon and, in the end, the home side won decisively.

They moved into sixth place in the Nationwide League first division but left City floundering four places off the bottom, one place lower than they were yesterday morning.

In the light of a record of four points from a possible 18 under his dour stewardship, Phil Neal's short reign as the latest City manager may not have much longer to run. He refused to talk about his position after the game, save to say, with a touch of unintentional self-mockery: "I am here to comment on the aftermath of the game I have just lost."

The game he had just lost was only rescued from its uninspiring first-half stalemate by a comedy of errors in the City penalty area in the first minute after the interval. Symons sliced an attempted clearance back towards his own goal where Dibble, deputising for the injured Margetson, miskicked it again. Dennison recovered the ball and crossed for Roberts to head home at the near post.

Wolves began to play with more conviction, led by the accurate, purposeful, long passes of Osborn, the running of Corica and the tirelessness of Bull. As City wilted, unable to capitalise on the embarrassing superiority of Kinkladze over every other player on the field, the home side sensed the opportunity to end a run of seven home games without a win.

After Rösler had wasted City's best chance by heading Summerbee's cross out from under the bar with the aplomb of an expert defender, Wolves sealed their victory seven minutes into the second half. Dibble beat out a fierce shot from Roberts after Bull had laid the ball off to him with his thigh, but the Welshman followed up and hammered it high into the net.

With the exception of the bite of Jeff Whitley, in midfield, and the dazzling, dancing runs of Kinkladze, City offered little realistic hope of getting back into the game.

To rub salt into their wounds, Dennison scored Wolves' third with a curling left-foot shot 11 minutes from the end.

"It might not have been the best we have played all season," the Wolves manager, Mark McGhee, said. "But it was the biggest performance so far.

"It took an awful lot of bottle for us to push on here, although I have always said that the so-called jinx here is down to injuries. No side who has suffered the number of injuries we have could win consistently.

"In the second half we managed to up the tempo and do some damage. I am reluctant to say that we are off and running now but we are up there in the thick of the promotion battle. I think that we will get stronger and stronger as more players are available after injury and increase the competition for places.

"It is a pity that we have been winning so many games away and not at home. Had it happened in reverse, the fans would have had more belief in our potential. Maybe now, they will start to get behind us even more. We are really in amongst it now because the results went in our favour this weekend and last."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — M Atkins, M Venus, N Emblen — A Thompson, G Thomas, S Osborn, S Corica (sub: J Dowe, 89min), R Dennison — S Bull, I Roberts
MANCHESTER CITY (4-3-1-2): M Margetson (sub: A Dibble, 5) — L Crooks, K Symons, D Wassall, I Brightwell — N Summerbee, Jeff Whitley, S Lomas — G Kinkladze — P Dickov (sub: N Clough, 70), U Rösler.
Referee: T Heilbron.

Redfearn relishes bringing Bolton back to earth

Bolton Wanderers 2
Barnsley 2

By Pat Gibson

IT IS a measure of Barnsley's growing reputation that three days after Bolton Wanderers had demolished Tottenham Hotspur 6-1 in the Coca-Cola Cup, the Nationwide League first division leaders were quite content to have preserved their undefeated home record with a goal in the last minute of the game.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, expected Barnsley to present very different opposition and they did. Whereas the FA Carling Premiership side had thrown in the towel in the face of unrelenting pressure, Barnsley simply relished the chance to show that the gap between rich and poor is not quite as great as some people imagine. Not on the field, anyway.

The Yorkshire side had a jewel in Neil Redfearn, a journeyman footballer if ever there was one. He actually began his trek through the divisions at Bolton, who let him go after 35 games. Now 31, he returned to haunt them by scoring both goals, just as he had done when they drew 2-2 at Oakwell in October.

More than anyone, Redfearn knew what was required on Saturday. "What Bolton did to Tottenham was not a fluke," he said.

"They're a good side and if you take them lightly, that is the sort of thing they will do to you. We knew that if we were not on the ball they could do the same to us, and there was no way we were going to let that happen."

Redfearn set the standard, which is what he has been doing all season, according to his manager, Danny Wilson. "He's a real leader," Wilson said. "You can tell when he goes out on the pitch that he relishes the responsibility he has. He helps the players around him all the time and I can see him getting 20 goals — again — from midfield."

Barnsley needed that kind of influence after Bolton had taken the lead with a goal that was ominously reminiscent of some of those that they had put past Tottenham, Blake heading firmly in from Sellars's twentieth minute corner. Redfearn equalised from the penalty spot five minutes later after John Sheridan had brought down Hendrie, and then seemed to have settled a cracking contest when he shot into the far corner 11 minutes from time after Marcelle had caused panic on the edge of the Bolton area.

There were only seconds remaining when Davis cleared a corner straight to Thompson, who volleyed in the equaliser, and Todd was satisfied with what was Bolton's fourth point from their last five games. It was enough to increase their lead at the top to seven points and Todd said: "It is nothing to do with us that the results keep going our way. We're just happy to be creating chances and picking up points."

They should be back in the Premiership by the time they move to their new £30 million stadium next season and it is not unrealistic to believe that Barnsley, only seven points behind with two games in hand, will be joining them.

"It's a nice little yardstick of how far we've come that we're going away from a place like Bolton disappointed that we haven't won," Wilson said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — A Todd, C Fairclough, G Bergsson, J Phillips (sub: M Johansen, 84min) — D Lee, J Sheridan (sub: P Frandsen, 60), A Thompson, S Sellars — J McGinlay, N Blake
BARNSLEY (3-4-1-2): D Watson — S Davis, M Appleby, A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, J Bosancic, N Redfearn, D Sheridan — C Marcelle (sub: M Bullock, 86) — J Hendrie, P Wilkinson.
Referee: P Rejer

Parry to join Liverpool

RICK PARRY, the FA Premier League chief executive, is to take up a similar position with Liverpool Football Club at the end of the season.

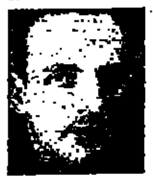
Parry, 41, a Liverpool supporter from his school days, said that he would be fulfilling a lifetime's ambition. He will take over at Anfield from Peter Robinson, who will become vice-chairman.

Whoever succeeds Parry will have to maintain, as he is credited with doing, the fragile balance between the most powerful clubs and their less illustrious rivals, to ensure that the game's new-found riches are evenly distributed.

The FA hopes to confirm the appointment of its first technical director within five weeks, but yesterday denied reports that Howard Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager, has already been selected.

Rangers stamp their authority on race for title

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

With their 3-0 victory over Aberdeen yesterday, Rangers took a five-point lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but the gulf in professionalism may be even more difficult for second-placed Celtic to bridge. In a 2-2 draw at home to an admirably obdurate Heart of Midlothian on Saturday, Celtic were overwrought, accident-prone and eventually reduced to ten men.

Rangers, on the other hand, trounced Aberdeen with the meticulousness of men reading from a manual. So serene was the display that there was even an impression of blandness; until, that is, one attempted to count the many chances they had manufactured in the intervals between goals. A watchful Rangers side also reduced each of the opposition's attacks to an exercise in futility.

A shot by Rowson in the closing moments that required Goram's first true save was the only occasion on which Rangers' defending was tinged by drama. The visitors' sense of security was the basis of a lethally methodical approach. In the 37th minute, Walker's poor kick-out permitted Rangers to break on the left, and a mis-hit shot by Robertson, from Laudrup's low cross, completely flummoxed the Aberdeen goalkeeper.

Walker was once again despondent when, after 78 minutes, he needlessly charged out of his area in an attempt to reach Miller's through pass. Laudrup beat him to the ball, ran on and flighted the ball into the net. Four minutes from the end, Walker's handling was slippery as he tried to hold McCoist's shot and Miller pounced on the rebound.

The outcome, though, should not be explained purely by reference to a goalkeeper's mishaps. Walker made fine saves from Albertz and Ferguson before the interval, while McCoist hit the underside of the bar in the 36th minute and was to miss an appealing opportunity in the second half, too. Even injuries to Bjorklund and Albertz that rule them out of the European Cup Champions' League fixture in Auxerre on Wednesday cannot have diluted the contentment of Walter Smith, the Ibrox club's manager.

As if Rangers did not provide sufficient rivalry, Celtic have invented phantom enemies with which to torment themselves. On Saturday, Paolo di Canio was the subject of the club's tenth dismissal this season, but Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, admitted that he is a litle short of moral authority when delivering lectures on discipline.

Burns, after all, was despatched to the stand by the referee in the recent Old Firm game after haranguing a linesman. Celtic tend to seethe with unjustified resentment these days and di Canio, in the 44th minute, collected the first of his two yellow cards after disputing a perfectly sound offside decision.

So sustained was his protest, that Stuart Dougal, the referee, might have dismissed the Italian there and then. His involvement did come to a sudden halt, however, with 13 minutes of the match remaining. Immediately after earning and converting a penalty for Celtic's second equaliser, di Canio raced into the net and become embroiled with Rousset, the goalkeeper, before exchanging shoves with Fulton. Dougal, previously tolerant, could conjure up no further excuses for leniency and the forward was sent packing. At present, the country's therapists are finding their diaries overcrowded by the psychological ailments of Britain's leading footballers, but so irrational can di Canio's conduct become that Celtic might consider begging for one more appointment to be squeezed in.

The forward is a man of histrionics, who is seemingly determined to view football as melodrama, but, damagingly for his club, his team-mates and supporters have begun to share the perspective. As they attempt to prevent Rangers from matching their record of nine successive championships. Celtic are beset by their own unruly emotions.

For Burns's team, the obsession with Rangers is impeding the attempt to challenge them.

> 'Celtic are beset by their unruly emotions'

ABERDEEN (4-3-3) N Walker — S McKimmie, B Irvine, A Kombouare, T Tzvetanov — I Kinakov, D Rowson, D Young (sub: J Miller, 58min) — S Booth, D Windass (sub: H Ingolfsson, 72), W Dodds.

RANGERS (3-5-2). A Goram — G Petric, R Gough, J Bjorklund (sub: C Miller, 52) — G Shields, C Moore, P Gascoigne, J Albertz (sub: I Ferguson, 29), D Robertson — B Laudrup (sub: E Andersen, 90), A McCoist.
Referee: J McCluskey

Warnock's misery finds no respite

Plymouth Argyle 0
Burnley 0

By David Powell

IF THIS was fiction, the book would end with Plymouth Argyle winning the FA Cup at Wembley in May. In the story so far, the manager has fallen out with the chairman, a director has quit, the team's most consistent performer has asked for a transfer, the banners are up asking for the chairman's head, and the manager has stormed out of a game before the end saying he is burnt out and then issued a statement declaring the club in crisis.

Emergency talks failed to meet the manager's demand for cash to strengthen his relegation-threatened squad and an interested buyer, promising £800,000 immediately for players, withdrew as the chairman refused to budge.

Through the gloom, there is a cup-tie against their Devon rivals, Exeter City, to look forward to, but the hero of the Wembley promotion play-offs six months earlier seems liekly to miss it as he is remanded in custody, charged with kidnapping and making threats to kill.

Neil Warnock, the Plymouth manager, said on Saturday that "we cannot get much more thrown at us." He had been ticked off by the referee and saw Beresford, the Burnley goalkeeper, brilliantly save Heathcote's 89th-minute header that might have given Plymouth their first Nationwide League second division win in five matches.

It was probably as well that Warnock was not present when Adrian Heath, in his first full season of management, spoke of having funds available to underpin Burnley's promotion drive. "There is no money, nothing has changed on that," Warnock said when asked what his midweek meeting with Dan McCauley, the chairman, had resolved. The two have not been speaking to each other for most of the season.

Warnock's frustration spilt over to an attack on the media for failing to report a burglary at Ronnie Maugé's home. Subsequently, the player allegedly kidnapped a Plymouth man on Wednesday.

Maugé, who scored in Plymouth's promotion-winning game at Wembley last May, appeared before magistrates on Friday and was held in custody pending a second appearance this Friday.

Red cards were distributed for supporters to wave, urging McCauley to resign. Inside Home Park, banners repeated the message. The tension was heightened when Warnock and Heath were spoken to by the referee, although Heath made light of it.

"Apparently, you cannot shout now," Heath said. "He said we were having a go at him, we said, if you cannot take a bit of stick, it is not the best game to be involved in."

A point apiece was fair, Smith missing an 82nd-minute sitter for Burnley. Warnock, who left the recent home match against Chesterfield ten minutes early, out of anger at his players, was more resigned now. "I am very proud when I see performances like that with what we have got," he said. "I just wish that they got bonuses today."

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (3-5-2): B Grobbelaar — A James, M Heathcote, P Wotton — C Billy, M Simpson (sub: M Saunders, 77min), M Barlow, C Leadbitter, P Williams — M Evans (sub: C Corazzin, 88), A Littlejohn.
BURNLEY (3-5-2): M Beresford — C Brass, P Swan, G Harrison — G Parkinson, P Weller, N Gleghorn, P Smith, D Eyres — K Nogan, A Cooke.
Referee: M Pierce.

Shilton keeps on course for goal

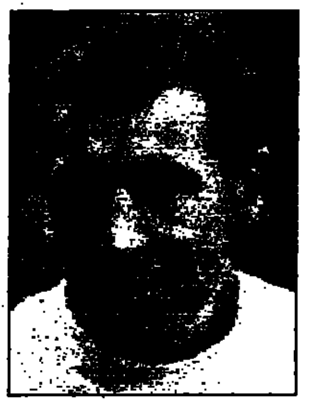
Keith Pike watches the evergreen custodian inspire Orient to a 3-0 victory over Cardiff

He was "just going to take each game as it comes," but for once football's most time-honoured cliché was as fresh as the day it was minted. Peter Shilton MBE, OBE, had resumed his quest for sporting immortality, and if Brisbane Road on a grey afternoon is hardly the Venue of Legends, that was no deterrent for a man on a mission.

Thirty-one seasons after league match No 1, as a 16-year-old deputy for Gordon Banks with Leicester City, and 19 months after league match No 996, as a Bolton Wanderers substitute, Shilton had completed league match No 997 on Saturday with a clean sheet, a win bonus and a bump on his forehead after colliding with a post. "Unfortunately, it was metal," he said.

Shilton could afford to smile through the pain after the 3-0 defeat of Cardiff City. All things being equal — and his complicated, well-documented private life suggests a twist in the tale yet — league game No 1,000 should come on December 22, when Brighton visit Leyton Orient for a Nationwide League third division match. Shilton has already played 173 league games more than anybody else, and 226 more than any other active player. All records are there to be broken, but this one just might not be.

Greying temples give a clue but, at 47, Shilton retains the physique and athleticism of someone half his age, and when those assets are redundant, his very presence can prove decisive. With Orient leading 1-0, Cardiff were awarded a dubious 49th-minute penalty that Steve White, with 11 goals this season, elected to take. The ball hit a block of flats off Leyton High Road. "He's been the best in the world, and he's top-class still," White, a comparative novice at 37, said.



Shilton: decisive presence

Shilton, whose one genuine save of the afternoon came in the last minute, an instinctive plunge low to his left to thwart White again, said: "I don't think it is how old you are that matters, it's how fit you are and what your desire is." He planned to "have a takeaway and watch *Match of the Day*," after returning to the his home in the Midlands, where the pipe and slippers remain firmly locked away.

For, obsessed by the approaching landmark as he admits to being, Shilton has set his sights higher still. When, tired of warming the West Ham United bench for 12 months, he agreed to join Orient on Friday, he insisted on a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave if an FA Carling Premiership club came in for him.

Orient's best win of the season, achieved through goals by Griffiths, McGleish and Arnott, was overshadowed not only by Shilton's presence. Griffiths's reckless challenge on Perry sparked a mass brawl near the dugouts that ended in the Orient striker's dismissal, and O'Halloran, on his Cardiff debut after joining from Middlesbrough on loan, was later dismissed for handling.

Nothing, though, could wipe the smile off the face of Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman, who knows that goalkeeping legends and pound signs are not far removed (the gate was up more than 500, and December 22 promises a bonanza.) "We're going to change the entrance music to *When I'm 64*, because Peter thinks he will still be playing then," Hearn said. "He's the consummate professional, and for Orient it's a marriage made in heaven."

LEYTON ORIENT (3-4-1-2): P Shilton — M Warren, A Arnott, R Joseph — I Hendon, M Ling, J Channing, D Naylor — C Griffiths — S McGleish (sub: S Winston, 77min), C West (sub: P Garland, 57)
CARDIFF CITY (3-1-4-2): A Elliot — J Perry, A Philliskirk, J Eckhardt — S Young — K O'Halloran, C Middleton, J Fowler, J Gardner (sub: M Bennett, 63) — C Dale, S White.
Referee: R Styles.

Slough happy to keep pace with the pack

Slough Town.................... 0
Macclesfield Town 0

By Walter Gammie

AS BEFITS teams that started in third and second place in the Vauxhall Conference, Slough and Macclesfield produced a fiercely contested tussle at Wexham Park on Saturday.

Slough dropped into fifth as the resurgent forces of Woking, who drubbed Altrincham 7-1, and Stevenage Borough, 4-1 winners over Dover Athletic, moved above them. Yet they will be glad to emerge from a trough of injuries and suspensions still in the leading pack.

Their most notable absentees were Mark West and Gary Abbott, the forward pairing. They were replaced by Cliff Hercules and Mike Murphy, 19, who was making his debut.

Hercules was as surprised as anyone to find himself onside five minutes before half-time when standing clear of the defence, but he lobbed the ball wide. Murphy then wastefully missed after a neat one-two with Fiore.

Fiore struck a dipping 25-yard shot, which was tipped over by Morgan, and then saw Payne clear off the line after Morgan had missed his corner. Payne's contribution justified Macclesfield's decision to play 15 minutes of the first half without him while he had a head wound patched.

The main impetus in attack for Macclesfield was supplied by the eager running of Coates, a substitute. Yet it was a 25-yard drive from Sorvel that brought the best out of Wilkerson, who palmed the shot over the bar.

Much of the rest was a tale of no-quarter-given challenges and loudly-voiced upset over the refereeing that brought bookings for Fiore and Clement, of Slough, and Eadey, Power and Coates, of Macclesfield.

SLOUGH TOWN (3-5-2): P Wilkerson — R Smith, A Clement, S Bateman — G Smart, M Pye, G McGinnis, M Fiore, D Simpson (sub: D Bolt, 81min) — C Hercules, M Murphy.
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): P Morgan — D Tinson, N Howarth, S Payne, C Eadey — S Circuit (sub: M Coates, 58), N Sorvel, S Wood, N Mitchell — J Askey, P Power (sub: C Williams, 81).
Referee: S Tomlin.

New higher investment rates from 2 December 1996

	GROSS PA	GROSS MONTHLY	NET PA	NET MONTHLY
1 YEAR NOTICE ACCOUNT				
£100,000 and over	6.75%	6.55%	5.40%	5.24%
£50,000 to £99,999	6.25%	6.08%	5.00%	4.86%
£25,000 to £49,999	5.75%	5.60%	4.60%	4.48%
REGULAR SAVERS ACCOUNT* (Issue 2)				
All Amounts	6.75%	N/A	5.40%	N/A
ACORN SAVINGS ACCOUNT				
All Amounts	5.25%	N/A	4.20%	N/A
Plus a 10% annual bonus (see the Society's Acorn Savings Account leaflet for details).				
TESSA (Issue 2)				
All Amounts	7.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
VARIABLE RATE FOLLOW UP TESSA				
All Amounts	7.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
COMBINED PORTFOLIO ACCOUNT (Instant Access Rates)				
£25,000 and over	8.00%	N/A	6.40%	N/A
£10,000 to £24,999	7.50%	N/A	6.00%	N/A
£1,000 to £9,999	6.75%	N/A	5.40%	N/A
Rates include a one-off 2% gross p.a. introductory bonus.				
DIRECT INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT				
£100,000 and over	6.25%	6.08%	5.00%	4.86%
£50,000 to £99,999	6.00%	5.84%	4.80%	4.67%
£25,000 to £49,999	5.75%	5.60%	4.60%	4.48%
£10,000 to £24,999	5.25%	5.13%	4.20%	4.10%
£2,000 to £9,999	4.75%	4.65%	3.80%	3.72%

IMPORTANT NOTES: No interest will be paid on balances below £5,000 for the 180 Day Notice Account and £2,500 for the 90 Day Notice Account. All other interest rates for savings and investment accounts offered by the Society remain unchanged. *If investors do not make at least 10 monthly payments (minimum £40 per month, maximum £2,000 per month) into a Regular Savers Account in a year, or make more than two withdrawals during that period, balances will earn interest at 2.50% gross p.a.

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هكذا عن الأصل

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Cross Country

JARROW: Durham Pine North Eastern Harrier League: Men (10.8km): 1, S Bell (Chester-le-Street) 33min 00sec; 2, T Field (Sunderland) 33:30; 3, R Brown (Elswick) 33:53. Teams: 1, Sunderland 158pts; 2, Elswick 257; 3, Alnwick 272. Women (6.6km): 1, L Harding (Houghton and Peterlee) 24:14; 2, S Allen (Houghton and Peterlee) 25:09; 3, D Todd (Jarrow and Hebburn) 26:46. Teams: 1, Houghton and Peterlee 7pts, 2, Elvet 38, 3, Gosforth 41.

PERIVALE: Metropolitan League (5 miles): 1, S Rachid (Woodford Green) 26min 34sec; 2, S Pultan (Highgate) 27:33; 3, J Gentry (Newham and Essex Beagles) 27:34. Teams: 1, Woodford Green 2,005pts; 2, Thames Valley Harriers 1,934; 3, North London 1,770.

BEXLEY: Cambridge Harriers championship (7.5 miles): 1, A Camp 43min 00sec; 2, A Knight 44.56; 3, P Johnston 45:00

ROEHAMPTON: Inter-banks championships: Men (5.75 miles): 1, D Duke (Nationwide) 29min 41sec; 2, R Smith (Barclays) 30:05; 3, S Clarke (NatWest) 30:13. Teams: 1, Barclays 35pts; 2, NatWest 42; 3, Nationwide 52. Women (3.5 miles): 1, C Pimblett (Halifax) 20min 02sec; 2, S Bridger (Midland) 21:08; 3, A Fletcher (NatWest) 21.21. Teams: 1, Nationwide 31pts, 2, Barclays 34; 3, Lloyds TSB 35

RUGBY: Representative match (10km): 1, S Hall (Fire Services) 31min 30sec; 2, D Daniels (Police) 31:31; 3, I Fowler (Police) 33:32. Teams: 1, British Police 43pts; 2, Fire Services 62; 3, Prison Service 133.

Road running

HYDE PARK: Serpentine (5km): 1, T St Ledger (Stourport) 16min 43sec; 2, A Flanagan (unattached) 16:55; 3, S Ingall (Hercules Wimbledon) 16:57. Women: 1, A Fletcher (Dulwich Runners) 18:22; 2, R Broster (Serpentine) 21:31; 3, D Knott (Hertford and Ware) 21:57

PORTSMOUTH: Asics Victory race (5 miles): 1, L Cherono (Ken) 22min 49sec; 2, C Udall (Birchfield) 23:14; 3, D Taylor (Blackheath) 23:20; 4, J Campbell (Annadale Striders) 23:23; 5, J Pugsley (Boxhill Racers) 23:25. Teams: 1, Southampton Running Club 79pts; 2, Bristol 106; 3, Annadale Striders 120. Women: 1, Z Hyde (Havant) 26min 56sec; 2, J Shields (Sheffield) 27:05; 3, C Herbert (Arena 80) 27:29. Teams: 1, Havant 28pts; 2, Hounslow 58; 3, Arena 80

JOHANNESBURG: Soweto marathon: Men: 1, A Mokoba (SA) 2hr 19min 46sec; 2, A Motlagale (SA) 2:21 09; 3, K Mwenze (Zaire) 2:21.54. Women: 1, S Mokgotla (SA) 2hr 56min 53sec; 2, P Mentokoane (Lesotho) 3:02.27; 3, R Scott (SA) 3:05.30.

MACAU MARATHON: Men: 1, D Jiangmin (China) 2hr 18min 30sec; 2, F Ryjov (Russ) 2:18.23; 3, V Kotov (Bela) 2:19.57; 4, H Crisostomo (Por) 2:20.41. Women: 1, E Makolova (Bela) 2:40.13; 2, L Yemei (China) 2:45.53; 3, L Clayton (Aus) 2:46 03

Fell running

BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND, Lancashire: Fell race (8M, 800ft): Men: 1, G Patten (Pudsey and Bramley) 46min 21sec; 2, C Roberts (Kendal) 47:00; 3, P Sheard (Pudsey and Bramley) 47:42. Women: 1, V Peacock (Clayton-le-Moors, W40, 64th) 57:22; 2, S Brown (Bowland) 58:14; 3, L Pyne (Calder Valley) 1:00:58

BADMINTON

CARDIFF: Welsh Open: Men: Semi-finals: C Bruil (Holl) bt D Pallyama (Holl) 15-5, 15-6; G Bruystens (Holl) bt G Lewis (Wales) 15-6, 15-8. Final: Bruil bt Bruystens 15-12, 15-5. Women: Semi-finals: K Morgan (Wales) bt T Woodward (Eng) 11-1, 11-1; K Ericsson (Swe) bt T Hallam (Eng) 11-12, 11-2, 12-9. Final: Morgan bt Ericsson 11-4, 11-4.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Houston 120 Boston 94; Atlanta 110 Washington 81, Philadelphia 100 Orlando 91; Indiana 104 Vancouver 94; LA Lakers 84 Detroit 76; Chicago 116 Dallas 97, Minnesota 108 Denver 103; Utah 111 LA Clippers 94, Portland 119 Golden State 93; Seattle 105 Phoenix 92. Saturday: New York 115 Sacramento 101; Orlando 98 Cleveland 82; Miami 78 Boston 77; Philadelphia 98 Vancouver 90; Houston 103 Washington 99; Minnesota 79 Toronto 70; Charlotte 94 Milwaukee 87. Chicago 97 San Antonio 88; New Jersey 106 LA Clippers 95 (OT).

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	12	4	.750	—
Orlando	8	4	.667	2
New York	9	5	.643	2
Washington	7	8	.467	4½
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	4½
Boston	4	10	.286	7
New Jersey	3	9	.250	7
Central division				
Chicago	15	1	.938	—
Detroit	11	3	.786	3
Cleveland	9	5	.643	5
Charlotte	8	6	.571	6
Atlanta	9	7	.563	6
Milwaukee	8	7	.533	6½
Indiana	5	8	.385	8½
Toronto	4	10	.286	10

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	15	1	.938	—
Utah	11	2	.846	2½
Minnesota	7	8	.467	7½
Denver	5	11	.313	10
Dallas	4	10	.286	10
San Antonio	2	13	.133	12½
Vancouver	2	15	.118	13½
Pacific division				
Seattle	14	3	.824	—
LA Lakers	11	6	.647	3
Portland	10	6	.625	3½
LA Clippers	6	10	.375	7½
Sacramento	5	11	.313	8½
Golden State	4	11	.267	9
Phoenix	1	14	.067	12

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 78 Birmingham 80; Crystal Palace 68 Chester 81; Derby 82 Worthing 61; Derby 82 Worthing 61; Crystal Palace 68 Chester 81.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
* Sheffield	12	10	2	1083	894	20
Birmingham	13	8	5	1061	1016	16
* Chester	11	8	3	972	924	16
Leopards	11	8	3	1068	975	16
Leicester	10	7	3	865	798	14
* London Towers	10	7	3	872	746	14
Newcastle	9	7	2	833	793	14
Derby	13	6	7	1155	1176	12
* Manchester	10	5	5	800	780	10
Thames Valley	11	3	8	1015	1051	6
Crystal Palace	13	2	11	937	1093	4
Worthing	11	2	9	865	971	4
Hemel and W	12	0	12	1008	1297	0

** not including last night's matches*

7UP TROPHY: South pool: Hemel and Watford 98 Thames Valley 115.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury and Bolton 92 Oxford 88, Coventry 80 Mid Sussex 70; Solent 59 Brixton 92; Stockton 89 Plymouth 92, Ware 87 Liverpool 88; Westminster 88 Cardiff 118; Coventry 91 Plymouth 89; Guildford 86 Nottingham 84. Second division: Bournemouth 62 Northampton 81; Chessington 73 London 78; Flintshire 79 Derby 64; Solihull 95 Swindon 72; South Wales 92 Aston 76; Aston 70 Thames Valley 77. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham 56 Harlesden 69 (OT); Crystal Palace 57 Spelthorne 48; Rhondda 73 Nottingham 59; Birmingham 60 Sheffield 71; Nottingham 42 Northampton 58. Second division: Chelmsford 50 Manchester 55 (OT); Doncaster 55 Liverpool 63; Plymouth 60 Leicester 70; Tyne and Wear 58 Oxford 51

BIATHLON

LILLEHAMMER, Norway: World Cup: Men (12.5km): 1, S Fischer (Ger) 35min 37.9sec; 2, P Rostovtsev (Russ) at 0 02.6; 3, R Cattarinussi (It) 0.05.1. Women (10km): 1, S Greiner-Petter-Memm (Ger) 34 38.8; 2, G Koukleva (Russ) at 0 15.04; 3, M Forsberg Wallin (Swe) 0.43 7.

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Northumberland 109 Lancashire 129; Cumbria 141 Durham 93; Yorkshire 179 Derbyshire 83; Nottinghamshire 109 Lincolnshire 100; Warwickshire 125 Worcestershire 116, Northamptonshire 136 Leicestershire 95; Gloucestershire 124 Oxfordshire 126; Herefordshire 104 Wiltshire 127; Somerset 112 Devon 128; Buckinghamshire 125 Hampshire 122; Essex 108 Kent 106.

WELSH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: East section: Henllys 40 Rhydycar 111, St Tydfil 100 Taff Ely 54; Uskmouth 84 Wyllie 82; Colcot 72 Pontcanna 101; Coed Duon 46 Oakfield 105; Llynfi 44 Casnewydd 107; Glynrhondda 77 Ystradfodwg 86.

WELSH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: East section: Newport 99 Cardiff 134. Merthyr 125 Torfaen 99; Rhondda 133 Taff Ely 91; V of Glamorgan 126 Islwyn 104. West section: Port Talbot 108 Pembrokeshire 113. Swansea 150 Earlswood 91; Ogwr 108 Llanelli 150; Heatherton 104 Dinefwr 123. North section: Firth 131 Sealand 120.

BOXING

RHONDDA SPORTS CENTRE, Tylorstown: Commonwealth light-heavyweight championship: Nicky Piper (Cardiff, holder) bt Bruce Scott (Hackney) rsc 7th. Light-heavyweight (4rnds): Grant Briggs (Tredegar) bt Brian Galloway (Sheffield) (pts). Cruiserweight (4rnds): Trevor Small (Bristol) bt James Branch (Woodford) ko 1st; (6rnds): Kelly Oliver (Lincoln) bt Nigel Rafferty (Wolverhampton) pts. Light-welterweight (6rnds): Mark Winters (Ballymena) bt Paul Dyer (Portsmouth) pts. Featherweight (6rnds): Barry Jones (Cardiff) drew with Dave Morris (Cardiff); (8rnds): Floyd Havard (Swansea) bt Carl Allen (Wolverhampton) rst 3rd.

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico: World Boxing Organisation light-bantamweight championship: Johnny Tapia (US, holder) bt Adonis Cruz (Nicaragua) pts.

ROANOKE, Virginia: Professional light-heavyweight bout: Thomas Hearns (US) bt Karl Willis (US) rsc 5th.

IRVINE, California: California super-light-weight championship: Russell Mosley (US, holder) drew with Hymie Oceguede (US).

CRICKET

Second Test match

India v South Africa

CALCUTTA (final day of five): South Africa beat India by 329 runs

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 428 (A C Hudson 146, G Kirsten 102; B K V Prasad 6 for 104).

Second Innings

A C Hudson retired hurt ... 8
G Kirsten run out ... 133
H H Gibbs c Dravid b Srinath ... 9
D J Cullinan not out ... 153
*W J Cronje c and b Kumble ... 34
B M McMillan not out ... 17
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 4) ... 15
Total (3 wkts dec) ... 367

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-251, 3-306.

BOWLING: Srinath 24-2-97-1; Prasad 16-0-63-0; Kumble 33-5-101-1; Hirwani 11-1-40-0; Joshi 11-0-56-0

INDIA: First Innings 329 (M Azharuddin 109, A Kumble 88).

Second Innings

†N R Mongia c Cullinan b Klusener ... 8
R S Dravid b McMillan ... 23
S C Ganguly c Richardson b Klusener ... 0
*S R Tendulkar c Kirsten b Symcox ... 2
V V S Laxman b Klusener ... 1
M Azharuddin c McMillan b Klusener ... 52
S Joshi c McMillan b Klusener ... 1
A Kumble b Klusener ... 17
J Srinath c McMillan b Klusener ... 19
B K V Prasad not out ... 3
N D Hirwani b Klusener ... 0
Extras (lb 2, nb 9) ... 11
Total ... 137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-18, 3-27, 4-28, 5-88, 6-92, 7-97, 8-132, 9-137.

BOWLING: McMillan 19-8-33-1; Klusener 21.3-4-64-8; Cronje 7-4-10-0; Symcox 6-1-28-1.

Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and V K Ramaswamy (India).

Second Test match

Pakistan v New Zealand

RAWALPINDI (fourth day of five): Pakistan beat New Zealand by an innings and 13 runs

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 249 (S P Fleming 87, L K Germon 55; Mushtaq Ahmed 6 for 87).

Second Innings

B A Young c Zahoor b Mohammad Zahid ... 61
J T C Vaughan lbw b Mohammad Zahid ... 27
A C Parore lbw b Mohammad Zahid ... 6
*†L K Germon b Mohammad Zahid ... 0
N J Astle lbw b Mohammad Zahid ... 1
M J Greatbatch c Saeed b Mushtaq ... 19
S P Fleming c Moin b Shahid ... 4
C L Cairns b Mushtaq ... 11
C Z Harris lbw b Mohammad Zahid ... 14
D N Patel lbw b Mohammad Zahid ... 0
S B Doull not out ... 4
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 13) ... 21
Total ... 168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-105, 3-109, 4-112, 5-119, 6-137, 7-137, 8-163, 9-163.

BOWLING: Mohammad Zahid 20-3-66-7; Shahid Nazir 7-1-19-1; Mohammad Akram 7-2-11-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 22-7-52-2; Salim Malik 2-0-13-0.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

*Saeed Anwar c Doull b Cairns ... 149
Zahoor Elahi c Fleming b Cairns ... 2
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Cairns ... 125
Mushtaq Ahmed lbw b Harris ... 42
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Vaughan b Harris ... 1
Salim Malik b Cairns ... 78
Mohammad Wasim c Cairns b Doull ... 5
†Moin Khan lbw b Doull ... 2
Shahid Nazir c and b Cairns ... 10
Mohammad Zahid lbw b Astle ... 0
Mohammad Akram not out ... 0
Extras (lb 14, nb 2) ... 16
Total ... 430

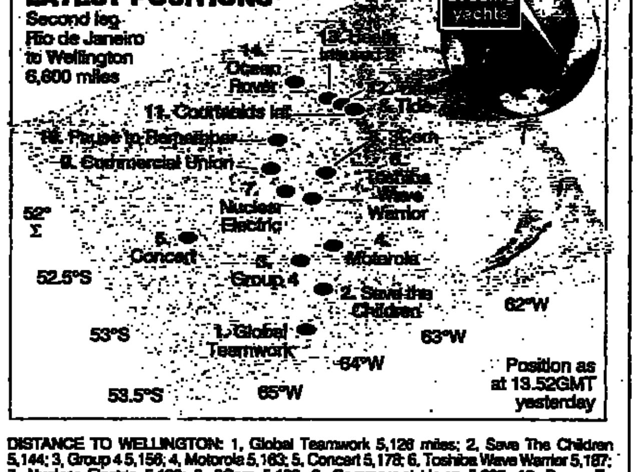
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-288, 3-290, 4-291, 5-375, 6-394, 7-398, 8-419, 9-420

BOWLING: Doull 31-7-86-2; Cairns 30-4-2-137-5, Vaughan 17-1-72-0; Astle 9-1-31-1; Patel 15-4-33-0; Harris 24-7-57-2.

Umpires: L Barker (West Indies) and Javed Akhtar (Pakistan).

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Brisbane: Victoria 162 (A I Bichel 5-45) and 268-9 (W G Ayres 56, B J Hodge 51); Queensland 305 (A Symonds 77). Hobart: New South Wales 403-9 dec (B E McNamara 137 not out) and 70-2; Tasmania 327-9 dec (S Young 108 not out, M J Di Venuto 50). Adelaide: South Australia 277 and 325-9 (J A Brayshaw 96, G Parker 80 not out), Western Australia 318 (J L Langer 116, D R Martyn 96).

SUPERSPORT SERIES (third day of four): Pretoria: Natal 360 (E L R Stewart 78, N C Johnson 69; S Elworthy 4-71) and 261-9 dec (D M Benkenstein 87); Northern Transvaal 121 (G M Gilder 5-57, T Bosch 4-19) and 129-3. Johannesburg: Transvaal 308 (N D McKenzie 80, D R Laing 76, A M Bacher 58; C W Henderson 5-107, R Telemachus 4-71); Boland 148 (C E Eksteen 4-38) and 159 (R E Veenstra 4-48). Transvaal win by an innings and three runs. Bloemfontein: Western Province 446 (J H Kallis 143, D B Rundle 81 not out, A C Dawson 59, S G Koenig 52); Free State 280 (G F J Liebenberg 90; M W Pringle 4-61, A Martyn 4-76) and 205-2 (Liebenberg 91, D Jordaan 60). Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 476-6 dec (L J Koen 186, D J Callaghan 102, M W Rushmere 63); and 185-3 dec (K C Wessels 64 not out); Griqualand West 266 (J M Arthur 86; E A E Baptiste 5-60) and 104-3.



BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

Second leg Rio de Janeiro to Wellington 6,600 miles

DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Global Teamwork 5,126 miles; 2, Save The Children 5,144; 3, Group 4 5,156; 4, Motorola 5,163; 5, Concert 5,178; 6, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,187; 7, Nuclear Electric 5,190; 8, 3Com 5,199; 9, Commercial Union 5,202; 10, Pause To Remember 5,214; 11, Courtaulds International 5,231; 12, Time & Tide 5,232; 13, Heath Insured II 5,238; 14, Ocean Rover 5,243.

CYCLING

Track

KEY 103-GUINNESS EUROLEAGUE (second round, Manchester Velodrome): 25-lap scratch: 1, T Depeuter (Ghent); 2, W Wright (Cardiff); 3, C Marien (Ghent). Ten-minute motor-paced (match A): 1, A Bos (Amsterdam); 2, J Clay (Manchester); 3, N Craig (London). Ten-minute motor-paced (match B): 1, R van Dorst (Amsterdam); 2, J Clay; 3, J Dhaenens (Ghent). Kilometre Madison TT: 1, M Ghijselinck and T Depeuter (Ghent) 1min 00.037sec; 2, J Hargreaves and J Notley (Manchester) 1:00.716; 3, J Morsal and M van Heeswijk (Amsterdam) 1:02.575. Five-station pursuit: 1, C Flasse (Ghent); 2, C Ball (London); 3, J Notley. Devil take the Hindmost: 1, J Hargreaves; 2, T Depeuter; 3, C Marien. Golden mile: 1, R Rozendaal (Amsterdam); 2, W van Rengen (Ghent); 3, F Bamforth (Manchester). Sprint: 1, R Vink (Amsterdam); 2, A McMath (Manchester); 3, S Vis (Amsterdam). Keirin: 1, M Ghijselinck; 2, R Vink; 3, A McMath. 40-lap scratch: 1, C Marien; 2, E Bos; 3, T Jacobs (Ghent). Overall: 1, Ghent 31 pts; 2, Amsterdam 25; 3, Manchester 22; 4, London 7; 5, Cardiff 6.

Cyclo-Cross

OPEN LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP (Addington Hills, Croydon, 24km): 1, R Hammond (Colstrop) 58min 23sec; 2, B Clarke (Team Raleigh) at 50sec; 3, C Sturgeon (Team Orange) at 1min 58sec; 4, S Blunt (GB) at 2:39; 5, I Taylor (GB) at 2:40; 6, D Baker (Team GT) at 3:03. Jonathan Noble Memorial (Temple Newsam Park, Leeds, 12 miles): 1, R Thackray (Bradford Olympic RC) 1hr 03min 00sec; 2, J Watson (Bradford Olympic) at 1:30; 3, P Dixon (Huddersfield RC) at 2:14. Milton Keynes CC (National Bowl, 12 miles): 1, J Dayus (Worcester St John's CC) 52min 00sec; 2, S Burney (Ace RT) at 15sec; 3, A Siers (Lichfield City CC) at 1:00.

FENCING

HENDON: British épée championships: Men: 1, O Barriman (Haverstock); 2, S Paul (Haverstock); 3 equal, C Howser (Duellists) and I Jones (Wellesbourne). Women: 1, G Usher (Haverstock); 2, D Catchpole (Reading); 3 equal, C Greenway (LTFC) and H Nicholas (unattached)

GYMNASTICS

LILLESHALL: Men's international: 1, France 273.00pts; 2, Germany 266.70; 3, Great Britain 259.95; 4, Switzerland 258.45. Individual: 1, G Stabio (Fr) 55.400pts; 2, Y Cucherat (Fr) 55.350; 3, D Nonlen (Ger) 54.550; 4, K Jackson (GB) 54.450.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Boston 7 Vancouver 3; Anaheim 2 Chicago 0; Buffalo 3 Ottawa 0; NY Islanders 2 Washington 0; Dallas 2 Tampa Bay 1; Hartford 1 Florida 1; Edmonton 4 San Jose 2. Saturday: Buffalo 3 NY Islanders 2; Pittsburgh 6 Boston 2; Philadelphia 4 Ottawa 3; Washington 2 Montreal 0; Hartford 6 Tampa Bay 3; Dallas 5 Toronto 2; Colorado 2 New Jersey 1; Phoenix 3 Calgary 1; Chicago 5 Los Angeles 3.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Florida	15	3	6	36	75	47
Washington	13	11	1	27	69	64
Philadelphia	13	12	1	27	70	71
New Jersey	12	10	1	25	57	60
NY Rangers	9	13	4	22	84	78
NY Islanders	6	10	8	20	60	67
Tampa Bay	7	14	2	16	66	77
Northeast division						
Buffalo	13	11	1	27	71	69
Hartford	11	7	5	27	69	70
Montreal	10	12	4	24	91	93
Boston	9	10	4	22	68	77
Ottawa	7	10	6	20	60	68
Pittsburgh	8	13	2	18	73	85

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Dallas	16	8	1	33	73	58
Detroit	14	8	3	31	75	47
Chicago	12	12	3	27	71	67
St Louis	13	11	0	26	75	72
Toronto	10	15	0	20	74	89
Phoenix	8	12	4	20	57	70
Pacific division						
Colorado	16	6	4	36	95	56
Edmonton	13	12	1	27	92	82
Vancouver	13	10	0	26	72	71
Los Angeles	10	12	3	23	67	80
Calgary	10	14	2	22	63	72
San Jose	8	13	4	20	63	83
Anaheim	7	14	4	18	66	83

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke 8 Bracknell 5; Cardiff 1 Ayr 3; Newcastle 4 Manchester 2; Nottingham 1 Sheffield 4.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston 8 Telford 5; Medway 2 Solihull 8; Slough 11 Peterborough 5; Swindon 4 Guildford 3.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Castlereagh 10 Blackburn 3, Fife 7 Murrayfield 5; Paisley 13 Dumfries 2.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Mellor 12 Cheadle Hulme 7; Hulmeians 9 Moorthorpe 7, Timperley 6 Cheadle 17; Stockport 11 Old Waconians 5; Boardman and Eccles 10 Poynton 5.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Amateur Championship: First round: G Barker bt T Barnes 15-6, 15-6, 4-15, 15-4; C Roberds bt D Watkins 15-10, 15-4, 15-6. Second round: T Cockroft bt Roberds 15-0, 15-2, 15-3, M Hue Williams bt R Carter 15-4, 15-6, 15-5.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Barla youth international match

Barla Gt Britain 20 France Yth 12

Barla Great Britain: Tries: Carroll, Jackson, Purdham, Spink. Goals: Jackson, Toole. France Youth: Tries: Guisset, Rodriguez. Goals: Caujolle 2. Att: 500

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley 28 Egremont 6; Dudley Hill 17 Mayfield 28; Leigh M 21 Lock Lane 16; Wigan St Pat 18 Oldham St A 20; Woolston 15 Heworth 12. First division: Blackbrook 12 Askam 28; Millom 22 Eastmoor 24; Moldgreen 18 Thornhill 8; Oulton 20 Barrow Is 22; Walney C 31 Leigh E 6; Wigan St J 16 E Leeds 11. Second division: Dewsbury Moor 24 Hull D 0; Milford 16 Eccles 17; Ovenden 14 New Earswick 10; Redhill 38 Featherstone Am 14; Skidaugh 16 Shaw Cross 10; York Ac 12 Normanton 42.

SKIING

LILLEHAMMER, Norway: World Cup high-hill ski-jumping event (120m): 1, K Brenden (Nor) 257.6pts; 2, E Bredesen (Nor) 267.2; 3, D Thoma (Ger) 261.8.

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta: Women's World Cup downhill: 1, K Seizinger (Ger) 1min 41.91sec; 2, C Montellet (Fr) 1:42.51; 3, P Wiberg (Swe), 1:42.64. Leading downhill standings: 1, Seizinger 260pts; 2, Wiberg 158; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 126

BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado: Men's World Cup giant slalom: 1, F Nyberg (Swe) 2min 11.83sec; 2, U Kaelin (Switz) 2:11.99; 3, H Knaus (Austria). Leading overall standings: 1, M von Grünigen (Switz) 194pts. 2, Knaus 190; 3, K-A Aamodt (Nor) 181. Leading giant slalom standings: 1, Knaus 190pts; 2, Von Grünigen 180; 3, Nyberg 168. Leading Nations Cup standings: 1, Austria 392pts; 2, Switzerland 813; 3, Italy 626.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers 1 Surbiton 3; Canterbury 1 Guildford 2; East Grinstead 2 Cannock 4; Havant 3 Old Loughtonians 3; Hounslow 2 Teddington 3, Southgate 6 Reading 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	11	8	1	2	47	22	25
Southgate	11	8	1	2	32	24	25
O Loughtonians	12	7	2	3	38	19	23
East Grinstead	11	6	3	2	35	23	21
Reading	12	7	0	5	39	32	21
Canterbury	12	5	2	5	36	34	17
Guildford	11	5	1	5	37	32	16
Teddington	11	5	1	5	31	31	16
Barford Tigers	12	4	0	8	21	40	12
Hounslow	11	3	2	6	17	31	11
Surbiton	11	2	2	7	20	44	8
Havant	11	0	1	10	10	31	1

FIRST DIVISION: Hull 1 Oxford University 3; Oxford Hawks 2 Sheffield 1; Isca 2 St Albans 3; Indian Gymkhana 3 Stourport 3; Beeston 5 Trojans 1; Blueharts 5 Warrington 2; Bournville 2 Harleston Magpies 0; Bromley 2 Gloucester City 2; Brooklands 2 Firebrands 3; City of Portsmouth 1 Edgbaston 4; Crostyx 1 Doncaster 3. Postponed: Lewes v Slough.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	9	9	0	0	40	8	27
Doncaster	9	8	1	0	41	11	25
Bournville	10	7	1	2	28	14	22
St Albans	10	6	1	3	26	22	19
Warrington	11	6	1	4	23	27	19
Stourport	10	5	2	3	34	25	17
Blueharts	9	5	1	3	25	21	16
Firebrands	11	5	1	5	28	33	16
Gloucester City	11	5	1	5	23	30	16
Oxford Hawks	10	5	0	5	18	21	15
Brooklands	10	4	2	4	25	19	14
Indian Gym	9	4	2	3	27	22	14
Harleston M	11	3	4	4	20	16	13
Isca	10	3	4	3	18	21	13
Portsmouth	10	3	2	5	18	24	11
Sheffield	10	3	1	6	22	26	10
Hull	10	2	3	5	19	25	9
Lewes	9	3	0	6	20	29	9
Bromley	10	2	3	5	20	33	9
Oxford Univ	10	2	2	6	15	24	8
Edgbaston	10	2	2	6	15	24	8
Trojans	10	1	4	5	14	26	7
Crostyx	9	2	1	6	15	28	7

HA CUP: Fourth round: Anchorians 0 Beeston 4; Blueharts 0 Cannock 6; Bournville 0 Canterbury 5; Doncaster 1 High Wycombe 2; Fareham 4 Lewes 5; Guildford 5 Cambridge City 4; Hampstead and Westminster 3 Ipswich 3 (aet; Hampstead win 4-1 on penalty strokes); Hampton-in-Arden 0 Old Loughtonians 6; Harleston Magpies 0 St Albans 2; Hounslow 3 Indian Gymkhana 1; Reading 2 Firebrands 0; Southgate 4 East Grinstead 3; Stourport 5 Hull 2; Surbiton 1 Brooklands 0; Teddington 6 Gore Court 2; Weston-super-Mare 1 Chelmsford 3.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians 2 Old Whitgiftians 0; Beckenham 3 Wimbledon 3; Bournemouth 2 Ashford 0; Fareham 3 Chichester 3; Gore Court 9 Woking 0; Hampstead and Westminster 5 Ramgarhia 0; Maidenhead 1 Spencer 2; Old Kingstonians 4 Wokingham 1, Richmond 1 High Wycombe 1; Winchester 4 Tunbridge Wells 2. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes 2 Old Cranleighans 2; Camberley 2 Oxted 2; Portsmouth 1 Goan 3; Dulwich 2 London University 2; Purley 3 Blandford 0; Old Walcountians 5 Cheam 1; Old Mid-Whitgiftians 9 Southampton 1; Epsom 9 Petersfield 0; Oxshott 5 Andover 0. Postponed: Walton and Weybridge v Basingstoke. Kent/Sussex: Ashford 3 Bexleyheath 0. Belvedere 2 Lloyds Bank 2; Bexley Invicta 3 Brighton 3; Herne Bay 4 Worthing 3; Horsham 3 Mid Sussex 0; Marden Russets 2 Eastbourne 0; Middleton 2 Tulse Hill 1; Old Bordenians 1 Sevenoaks 5, Old Holcombeians 0 Old Williamsonians 1. Postponed: Blackheath v Bognor. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Bracknell 1 Newbury 1; City of Oxford 5 Sunbury 0; Eastcote 5 Richings Park 1; Gerrards Cross 3 OMT 2. Harrow 2 Farnham Common 3; Hayes 2 Lions 3; Headington 3 Staines 4; Marlow 3 Amersham 0; Mill Hill 3 Milton Keynes 6; West Hampstead 0 PHC Chiswick 0.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Chelmsford 2 Cambridge City 3; Colchester 3 Sudbury 3; Dersham 2 Cambridge University 2; Ipswich 0 Peterborough Town 1; Redbridge and Ilford 1 Bishop's Stortford 3. Premier division B: Bedford Town 1 Bury St Edmunds 0; Ipswich and East Suffolk 1 Clacton 2; Luton Town 4 Norwich City 5; Old Southendian 3 Huntingdon 1. Postponed: Westcliff v Romford.

SUN LIFE WEST PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Clevedon 1 Bath Buccaneers 2; Robinsons 2 Llan and Llan 3; Swansea 0 Taunton Vale 0; Weston-super-Mare 3 Bristol University 2.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 3 Southport 2; Formby 2 Chester 2; Neston 5 Ramgarhia 0; Sheffield Bankers 3 Timperley 1; Springfields 1 Norton 7; Swalwell 2 Harrogate 5

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield 1 North Notts 6; Bloxwich 3 Khalsa 3; Coventry and North Warwickshire 1 Loughborough Students 5; Harborne 5 Olton and West Warwickshire 1. Postponed: Hampton-in-Arden v Nottingham.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Insights Menzieshill 7 Grange 2; MIM 5 Torbrex Wanderers 5; D and T Gordonians 6 Ciba Kelburne 3; Indespension Western 13 Inverleith 1; MIM 6 Grange 3; Insights Menzieshill 13 Torbrex Wanderers 2; Indespension Western 6 Ciba Kelburne 5; D and T Gordonians 4 Inverleith 5.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Hightown 0 Clifton 1; Leicester 0 Slough 3; Sutton Canada Life 0 Ipswich 3; Trojans 0 Doncaster 0. First division: Bluharts 1 Olton 7; Bradford 3 Canterbury 5; Chelmsford 2 Wimbledon 2; S Bedans 0 Bracknell 1. Second division: Exmouth 0 Old Loughtonians 2; Sherwood 0 Loughborough Students 4; West Witney 1 St Albans 2; Woking 2 Ealing 0.

AEWHA CUP: Third round: Aldridge 3 Billingham 0; Ashford (Kent) 0 Cheam 3; Balsam Leicester 6 Hendon 2; Bedford 2 Leyland Motors 2; Bishop's Stortford 2 Staines 1; Bluharts 3 Maidenhead 0; Bracknell 1 Sherwood 3; Canterbury wo Hereford; Clifton 7 Blackburn 1; Crimson Ramblers 1 Didsbury Greys 0; Doncaster 6 Bury St Edmunds 1; Eastcote 0 Ealing 5; Guildford 3 Kettering 3; Harborne 0 Whitley Bay 0 (Harborne win 4-2 on penalty strokes); Harleston Magpies 3 Sunbury 0; Horsham 2 Hightown 10; Ipswich wo Sheffield; Lincoln Imps 0 Wimbledon 3, Liverpool 3 Southampton 1; Luton Town 0 Loughborough Students 5; Old Loughtonians 8 Penzance 3; Olton 5 St Albans 2; Redditch 4 Epsom 2. Rover Cowley 1 Trojans 7; Slough 10 North Staffs 0; Sunderland Bedans 7 Southgate 0; Sutton Coldfield 7 Exmouth 0; Welwyn Garden City 1 Farnborough 3; West Witney 1 Chelmsford 6; Winchester 1 Exeter 1 (Winchester win 3-1 on penalty strokes). Winchmore Hill 3 Bude 0; Woking wo Newcastle.

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay 3 Cardiff Athletic 3; Newtown 2 Swansea 4; Pontypridd 0 Haverfordwest 2; Cardiff Institute 4 Penarth 3.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford 1 Bexleyheath 1, Ipswich 1 Bury St Edmunds 2; Sevenoaks 4 Cambridge City 0; Welwyn Garden City 1 Harleston 1. Midlands: Aldridge 3 Kettering 0; Crimson Ramblers 5 Leicester 0; North Staffs 0 Bedford 2; Pickwick 2 West Bromwich 1. North: Carlisle 0 Sheffield 3; Chester 1 Welton 2; Liverpool 3 Poynton 4, York 0 Blackburn 1. South: Dulwich 0 Winchmore Hill 1; Hampstead 2 Portsmouth 1; Horsham 8 Reading 2; Tulse Hill 4 Worthing 1; Winchester 0 Southampton 0. West: Bournemouth 0 Redland 0; Cheltenham 2 Yate 2; St Austell 2 Exeter 2; Wimborne 0 Leominster 2.

Colin Montgomerie, of Scotland, displays the winner's trophy after beating Ernie Els at the third hole of a sudden-death play-off for the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa yesterday. Report, page 26

NEWBURY

12.45 1, Buckhouse Boy (5-2 fav); 2, Foodbroker Star (20-1); 3, Take The Buckskin (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Youbetterbelieveit.

1.15 1, What A Question (4-1); 2, Antapoura (10-1); 3, Traingiot (11-8 fav). 11 ran.

1.50 1, Zabadi (11-4); 2, Urubande (4-6 fav); 3, Punting Pete (12-1). 4 ran.

2.25 1, Coome Hill (11-2); 2, The Grey Monk (13-8 fav); 3, Lo Stregone (10-1). 11 ran.

2.55 1, Ask Tom (7-4 fav); 2, Nakir (5-1); 3, Uncle Ernie (5-1). 6 ran.

3.25 1, Hoh Warrior (50-1); 2, Queen Of Spades (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Nordance Prince (20-1). Donnington 9-4 jt-fav. 19 ran. NR: Dances With Hooves, Raffles Rooster.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £15,713.38 carried forward to Worcester today).

Placepot: £30.40. Quadpot: £28.80.

NEWCASTLE

12.10 1, Jackson Park (2-1 fav); 2, Son Of Anshan (12-1); 3, [illegible] (11-2). 24 ran. NR: Arrogant Heir.

12.40 1, Sparky Gayle (4-6 fav, Private Handicapper's top-rating); 2, Solomon's Dancer (9-4); 3, Blue Charm (8-1). 10 ran.

1.10 1, Agistment (100-30); 2, Hand Woven (2-1 fav); 3, Military Academy (4-1). 25 ran.

1.45 1, Turning Trix (7-4 fav); 2, Road By The River (33-1); 3, All's Alibi (9-2). 9 ran. NR: Astings, No Pain No Gain.

2.15 1, Space Trucker (5-2); 2, Castle Sweep (11-8 fav); 3, Deto Star (5-2). 8 ran. NR: Alderbrook, Romancer.

2.45 1, Easby Joker (4-1); 2, Deep Decision (10-1); 3, Aljadeer (5-2 fav). 10 ran. NR: Solba.

3.15 1, Circus Line (2-1 fav); 2, Done Well (11-2); 3, Shining Edge (11-1). 10 ran.

HAYDOCK PARK

1.10 1, Shananogh (9-1); 2, Swanbister (10-1); 3, Rangitikei (11-2). Hurdante 11-8 fav. 16 ran.

1.40 1, Wayuphill (9-1); 2, Mr President (Evens fav); 3, Sailor Jim (4-1). 5 ran.

2.10 1, Out Ranking (9-4); 2, Roberty Lea (7-4 fav); 3, Eurotwist (4-1). 7 ran. NR: Desert Force.

2.40 1, Parsons Boy (13-8: Richard Evans's nap); 2, Class Of Ninetytwo (11-8 fav); 3, High Padre (7-1). 5 ran.

3.10 1, Oat Couture (10-1); 2, Nalyssari (6-1); 3, Garolo (100-30). Bold Boss 15-8 fav. 6 ran.

3.40 1, Anzum (13-2); 2, Burnt Imp (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Dally Boy (5-1 jt-fav). 12 ran.

WARWICK

12.30 1, Ionio (10-1); 2, Royal Event (7-4 fav). 3, Star Selection (14-1). 15 ran. NR: Herbert Lodge.

1.00 1, Pine Harvest (11-4); 2, Bally Parson (6-1); 3, Marr Mood (9-2). Lake Of Loughrea 5-2 fav. 7 ran.

1.35 1, Balanak (14-1); 2, Karshi (13-2); 3, Mytton's Choice (9-4 jt-fav). Domappel 9-4 jt-fav. 9 ran.

2.05 1, Christmas Gorse (10-1); 2, Church Law (9-2); 3, Stop The Waller (5-1). Beaurepaire 2-1 fav (pu). 7 ran. NR: Chief Rager.

2.35 1, Rovestar (5-1 fav); 2, Skram (14-1); 3, Mr Poppleton (7-1); 4, Colour Counsellor (6-1). 17 ran. NR: Nuns Lucy, Saitis.

3.05 1, Flight Lieutenant (6-1); 2, Scottish Bambi (6-2); 3, Reel's Mill (50-1). Exterior Profiles 2-1 fav (f). 10 ran.

3.35 1, Lord Foley (3-1); 2, Zander (5-1); 3, Tristram's Image (6-4 fav). 16 ran. NR: Clinking.

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 1, Premier (7-4 fav); 2, Selberry (5-2); 3, Move The Clouds (12-1). 9 ran.

7.30 1, [illegible] (12-1); 2, Hill Farm Dancer (13-8); 3, Friendly Dancer (5-6 fav). 7 ran. NR: Posie Chain.

8.00 1, Elite Hope (10-1); 2, Encore M'Lady (16-1); 3, Sis Garden (8-1). Steal 'Em 5-2 fav. 12 ran.

8.30 1, Nikita's Star (10-1); 2, Tart (5-1); 3, Tissue Of Lies (8-1). Heart 9-4 fav. 7 ran.

9.00 1, Showgirl (15-2); 2, Lightning Bolt (4-6 fav); 3, Chilling (33-1). 6 ran.

9.30 1, Napier Star (8-1); 2, Aljaz (8-1); 3, Hoh Majestic (8-1). Superbit 2-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Bashful Brave.

FAIRYHOUSE

12.40 1, Ask The Butler (5-1); 2, Ann's Desire (25-1); 3, Diglin For Gold (20-1). Eduardo 5-4 fav. 26 ran. NR: Mattorla, Supreme Alliance.

1.10 1, Bermageera Boy (4-1 jt-fav); 2, Scobie Boy (12-1); 3, Parknapp (4-1 jt-fav). Fiftysevenchannels 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran.

1.40 1, Tatabraq (11-8 fav); 2, Palette (14-1); 3, Noble Thyne (13-8). 7 ran. NR: Step On Eyre.

2.10 1, Dorans Pride (5-4 fav); 2, See More Business (5-2); 3, Executive Options (14-1). 8 ran. NR: The Latvian Lark.

2.40 1, Large Action (9-4); 2, Cockney Lad (8-1); 3, Thesteamworld (6-4 fav). 8 ran.

3.10 1, Iced Honey (8-1); 2, Gravity Gate (16-1); 3, Saving Bond (9-4 fav); 4, Bolero Dancer (16-1). 21 ran. NR: Dromara Breeze.

3.40 1, Davenport Banquet (5-4 fav); 2, Aonlocaletie (9-2); 3, Pari Passu (8-1). 23 ran. NR: Katouche

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION

Ampleforth 22 Pocklington 3, Berkhamsted 54 Mill Hill 5, Bristol GS 5 King's, Worcester 13, Canford 39 Taunton 22; Caterham 3 Sevenoaks 39; Cheltenham 24 Sherborne 19; Chichester HS 16 Seaford 12; Christ's Hospital 19 St John's, Leatherhead 24; City of London Freemen's 13 Tiffin 0; Colfe's 10 Eltham 35; Cranleigh 10 King's, Canterbury 3, Dean Close 46 Sir Thomas Rich's 0; Desborough 19 Latymer Upper 13; Edinburgh Academy 17 Glenalmond 0; Exeter 24 Queen's, Taunton 17; Giggleswick 52 Barnard Castle 7; Haileybury 23 Bedford 19; Hampton 11 Campion 13; Hurstpierpoint 20 Cranbrook 10; Leeds GS 8 Hymers 7; Lord Wandsworth 63 St John's, Southsea, Loughborough GS 0 QEGS, Wakefield 41; Nottingham HS 19 Stamford 14; Merchant Taylors', Crosby 23 Rydal 5, Merchant Taylors', Northwood 28 UCS 24; Pate's GS 37 King Edward's, Stratford 15, Plymouth 37 Kelly 8; QE Hospital, Bristol 9 Prior Park 12; Reigate GS 23 Judd 8; RGS High Wycombe 53 QEGS Barnet 5, Rugby 27 Warwick 18; St Dunstan's 7 St Olave's 15; St Edmund's, Ware 36 Chislehurst 7; St George's, Weybridge 61 Wallington 3; St Ignatius 45 King Edward VI 8; St Joseph's 19 Cooper's Coborn 27; St Paul's 29 RGS Guildford 0; Sedbergh 39 Loretto 3; Sir Roger Manwood's 12 Dover 28; Solihull 15 Bablake 10; Stowe 8 St Edward's, Oxford 17; Trent 15 Worksop 5; Uppingham 10 Oundle 37; Wells Cathedral 15 Monkton Combe 7; West Buckland 53 Wellington, Somerset 7; Whitgift 10 Epsom 10, Wisbech GS 27 King's, Ely 61; Worth 18 Eastbourne 38.

FOOTBALL

FA PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-16 TROPHY: Essex 1 Middlesex 1, Leicestershire 0 Lincolnshire 1. London Cup Under-15: Essex 2 Middlesex 4. Knowles Cup Under-14: Essex 0 Middlesex 1. London Crisp Shield: Thurrock 1 Barnet 0. Rangers Trophy: Blackheath 4 West London 0; Islington 3 Hackney 1. Goodhand Trophy: Nottingham 1 Hull 0. Cotswold League: Gloucester 3 Forest of Dean 1; Newbury 0 Swindon 4. Polarcup Trophy: Gosport 4 Havant 3. Batchelor Cup: Brent 0 Ealing 1. K W Blood Trophy: Nottingham 6 Hull 0. Brook Trophy: Blackheath 7 West London 1. Arsenal Trophy: Islington 3 Hackney 0. Yorkshire Trophy: Leeds 2 Sheffield 3. Woodward Cup: Halton 3 Rochdale 0. Alcock Cup: Kirkby 2 Macclesfield 3. George Brown Trophy: Nottingham B 5 Rushcliffe 3; Nottingham A 2 Eastwood 1. Kent Cup: Ashford 0 Bexley 5; Maidstone 1 Medway 6. Thorton Trophy: Blackheath 4 Hackney 2. Inter-association: Southampton 2 West Sussex 1; Sefton 3 Wigan 1; Carlisle 1 Sunderland 2; Wirral 2 Stockport 2; Brent 3 Basildon 1. Cheshire Cup: Quarter-final: Halton 1 Kirkby 2. Inter-town challenge matches: Blackburn 4 Chorley 2; Leeds 2 Sheffield 3; Nottingham 1 Hull 0; Spen Valley 1 Huddersfield 4; Brierley Hill and Dudley 4 Erdington and Saltley 2; Leicester 2 Coventry 5. Carlisle 1 Sunderland 2; Grimsby 1 Derby 2. Lancashire Cup: Blackpool 3 Preston 1. Northern Merit League: Calderdale 2 Bolton 2. West Midlands League: Mid and South Warwicks 2 Warley 3. Wolverhampton Wanderers Trophy: Under-14 quarter-final: Tamworth 1 Nuneaton 1. North West Woodward Trophy: Second round: Halton 3 Rochdale 0. Walsall Cup: Quarter-final: Cannock 0 Nuneaton 1; Warley 5 Tamworth 0; Erdington and Saltley 4 Coventry 1

WALTHAMSTOW: English Adidas seven-a-side championships (Inner London section): Bermondsey 0 South London 0; Tower Hamlets 1 Wandsworth 2; Lewisham 0 Islington 0; Hackney 0 Camden 3; Bermondsey 1 Islington 0; Tower Hamlets 2 Camden 1; Wandsworth 2 Hackney 2; South London 2 Lewisham 1; Camden 2 Wandsworth 1, Islington 1 South London 1; Tower Hamlets 4 Hackney 1; Bermondsey 1 Lewisham 1. Semi-finals: South London 1 Camden 5; Tower Hamlets 1 Bermondsey 0. Final: Tower Hamlets 1 Camden 0.

SUN CITY, South Africa: Million Dollar Challenge: Leading final scores: 274: E Els (SA) 67, 70, 71, 66; C Montgomerie (Scot) 65, 71, 70, 68 (Montgomerie won on third hole of sudden death play-off). 275: S Jones (US) 67, 71, 67, 70; N Price (Zim) 71, 67, 66, 71. 277: S Stricker (US) 68, 70, 69, 70; I Woosnam (Wales) 68, 69, 67, 73. 279: B Langer (Ger) 69, 70, 69, 71. 282: M O'Meara (US) 69, 71, 70, 72. 283: M Brooks (US) 68, 70, 72, 73; N Faldo (Eng) 73, 68, 69, 73. 284: C Pavin (US) 68, 71, 76, 69; T Lehman (US) 71, 71, 68, 74.

MELBOURNE: Greg Norman Classic: Leading final scores (Australia unless stated): 281: P Senior 69, 73, 69, 70. 282: G Norman 69, 75, 69, 69. 283: M Long (NZ) 70, 71, 70, 72. 285: J Kelly (US) 70, 69, 72, 74. 286: R Stephens 70, 75, 70, 71; W Smith 72, 71, 70, 73. 287: P Fowler 70, 72, 75, 70; G Waite (NZ) 74, 73, 69, 71; J van de Velde (Fr) 73, 71, 71, 72; S Tait 72, 74, 69, 72. 288: J Senden 73, 72, 74, 69; E Boult (NZ) 69, 70, 78, 71; R Muntz (Holl) 67, 72, 76, 73. 289: S Laycock 73, 72, 75, 69; J Moseley 74, 72, 71, 72; R Green 71, 72, 72, 74. Other scores: 290: M Campbell (NZ) 71, 73, 73, 73. 291: J Furyk (US) 72, 75, 73, 71; M Wheelhouse (NZ) 71, 73, 72, 75. 292: R Boxall (GB) 75, 73, 72, 72. 293: R Byrd (US) 70, 74, 74, 75. 294: R Goosen (SA) 70, 77, 72, 75. 296: S Alker (NZ) 72, 75, 73, 76. 297: G Moorhead (NZ) 68, 74, 78, 77. 298: G Evans (GB) 72, 75, 76, 74; S Pate (US) 73, 75, 75, 75. 307: J P Hebert (US) 72, 73, 84, 78.

INAGI, Japan: Nippon Series: Leading final scores (Japan unless stated): 262: M Ozaki 62, 68, 65, 67. 266: S Maruyama 68, 67, 65, 66. 271: N Ozaki 69, 69, 63, 70. 272: C Franco (Par) 68, 68, 66, 70; F Minoza (Phil) 65, 65, 70, 72; H Tanaka 69, 66, 67, 70. 276: K Hosokawa 74, 71, 68, 63. 277: T Suzuki 73, 66, 69, 69. 278: P McWhinney (Aus) 72, 64, 68, 74. 280: B Jobe (US) 74, 70, 70, 66; T Hamilton (US) 71, 67, 68, 74. Other scores: 281: B Watts (US) 72, 70, 71, 68. 283: D Ishii (US) 71, 69, 70, 73. 284: P Teravainen (US) 68, 72, 73, 71.

RUGBY UNION

Save and Prosper challenge match

England XV 19 NZ Barbarians 34

England XV: Tries: Sleightholme, Simpson. Pens: Catt 3. New Zealand Barbarians: Tries: Blowers, Brooke, Spencer, Vidiri. Con: Spencer. Pens: Mehrtens 2, Spencer 2

(at Twickenham)

International match

Wales 19 Australia 28

Wales: Try: G Thomas. Con: J Davies. Pens: J Davies 4. Australia: Tries: Gnai, Burke, penalty try. Cons: Burke 2. Pens: Burke 3

(at Cardiff Arms Park)

Counties of Origin Series

London Counties 16 Queensland 64

London Counties: Try: Pearce. Con: Raymond. Pens: Raymond 3. Queensland: Tries: Panoho 2, Coombs, Drahm, Gabey, Grant, McInally, Stoddart, Sullivan, Wallons. Cons: Drahm 7

(at London Irish)

Midland Counties 7 South Africa A 82

Midland Counties: Try: penalty try. Con: J Harris. South Africa A: Tries: Goosen 4, Du Toit, Kruge, Lubbe, Mayer, Sholtz, Van der Walt. Cons: Koen 6.

(at Coventry)

North Counties 16 Argentina XV 64

North Counties: Try: Monighan. Con: Stabler. Pens: Stabler 3. Argentina XV: Tries: Bouza 2, Soler 2, Solari 2, Giannantonio, Grau, Simone, Viel. Cons: Cilley 7.

(at Huddersfield)

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

Exeter 12 Kendal 18

Exeter: Tries: John, Woodman. Con: Green. Kendal: Tries: Healey, Slater. Con: Hudson. Pens: Hudson 2.

Anglo-Welsh Cup

Pool 2A

Gloucester 76 Newbridge 0

Gloucester: Tries: Mapletoft 3, Catling 2, Lloyd 2, Sewabu 2, Deveraux, Peters, Sims. Cons: Mapletoft 8.

West Hartlepool 16 Ebbw Vale 18

West Hartlepool: Tries: Irons, Wood. Pens: Silva 2. Ebbw Vale: Tries: M Jones 2. Con: Harris. Pens: Harris 2.

Anglo-Welsh competition

Group A

Maesteg 22 Blackheath 44

Maesteg: Tries: Burridge, G Jones, Morgans. Cons: J Richards 2. Pen: J Richards. Blackheath: Tries: Harship 2, Gallagher, Holmes, Howard, M Griffiths, Wilkins. Cons: Howard 3. Pen: Howard.

Richmond 71 Pontypool 14

Richmond: Tries: Fallon 3, A Moore 2, Bateman 2, Brown 2, Berley, Rodgers. Cons: Mason 6, Gregory 2. Pontypool: Tries: J Thomas, Woodward. Cons: M Jones 2.

Waterloo 30 Cross Keys 0

Waterloo: Tries: Monaghan, Reganvanu, S Bibby, Stevenson 2. Con: Aitchison. Pen: Handley.

Group B

Abercynon 20 Coventry 49

Abercynon: Tries: Haines, Rees. Cons: Dixon, Savage. Pens: Savage 2. Coventry: Tries: Chapman, M Thomas, R Morgan, Salisbury, Shepherd, Williams. Cons: M Thomas 5. Pens: M Thomas 2. Dropped goal: Gee

Moseley 30 Blackwood 23

Moseley: Tries: Chudleigh, Harris. Con: Le Bas. Pens: Le Bas 6. Blackwood: Tries: Cody, Lewis, Penfold. Con: D Williams. Pens: Cody, D Williams

Group C

Aberavon 27 Wakefield 27

Aberavon: Tries: Jacobs 2, R Lewis, penalty try. Cons: Ball 2. Pen: Ball. Wakefield: Tries: Flint, Maynard, McClarron, Stewart. Cons: Jackson 2. Pen: Jackson.

Bedford 64 Abertillery 14

Bedford: Tries: Pechey 3, Beans 2, Hewitt 2, P Turner, Pepper, Stone. Cons: Rayer 7. Abertillery: Tries: Mettravers, Penny. Cons: Penny 2.

Nottingham 24 Cardiff Inst 43

Nottingham: Tries: Bygrave, Mallett, Smith. Cons: N Carroll 3. Pen: N Carroll. Cardiff Institute: Tries: Sage 3, Shorney, Wall, penalty try. Cons: Savastano 5. Pen: Savastano.

Group D

Rotherham 35 Bonymaen 18

Rotherham: Tries: Easterby, Miller, West 2. Cons: Lax 3. Pens: Lax 3. Bonymaen: Tries: Beynon, Roberts. Con: Roberts. Pens: Roberts 2.

Rugby 15 Llandovery 16

Rugby: Tries: Saunders 2. Con: Pell. Pen: Pell. Llandovery: Tries: Rowlands, Simpson. Pens: Simpson 2.

Ystradgynlais 19 London Scottish 34

Ystradgynlais: Tries: A Lewis, J Donovan, Morgan. Cons: Love 2. London Scottish: Tries: Rainor 2, O'Sullivan, Stent. Cons: Stent 4. Pens: Stent 2.

Welsh League

First division

Dunvant 19 Treorchy 25

Dunvant: Try: Dodd. Con: M Thomas. Pens: M Thomas 3. Dropped goal: McCarthy. Treorchy: Tries: Ellis, Phillips, Wintle. Cons: D Evans 2. Pens: D Evans 2

Neath 39 Caerphilly 32

Neath: Tries: Jones, Funnell, J Davies, P Williams, Thomas, penalty try. Cons: P Williams 3. Pen: P Williams. Caerphilly: Tries: Griffiths, Jenkins, Law, R Bidgood. Cons: D Phillips 3. Pens: D Phillips 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Swansea	9	6	0	3	417	158	58	10	22
Pontypridd	9	8	0	1	332	161	39	6	22
Bridgend	9	6	1	2	329	149	41	5	18
Neath	10	5	0	5	283	259	42	5	15
Cardiff	8	5	0	3	271	204	37	5	15
Llanelli	8	4	0	4	184	139	21	4	12
Ebbw Vale	9	6	0	3	179	241	19	0	12
Newport	9	4	1	4	235	309	32	2	11
Dunvant	9	5	0	4	214	257	24	1	11
Treorchy	10	2	0	8	197	318	27	3	7
Caerphilly	10	1	0	9	172	324	22	4	6
Newbridge	10	2	0	8	149	442	18	0	4

THIRD DIVISION: Penarth 13 Builth Wells 36, Tenby Utd 19 Merthyr 16; Tondu 22 Tredegar 5; Pyle 25 Llanharan 23; Narberth 13 Mountain Ash 11. Postponed: Kenfig Hill v Rumney.

SWALEC CUP: Fourth round: Rhymney 23 Talywain 5; Ruthin 22 Birchgrove 27.

Tennents Premiership

First division

Heriot's FP 47 Hawick 19

Heriot's FP: Tries: Gilmore 2, Dall, Elliott, O'Kane, Proctor. Cons: Ross 4. Pens: Ross 3. Hawick: Tries: Suddon 2, Welsh. Cons: Welsh 2.

Melrose 69 Jed-Forest 7

Melrose: Tries: Moncrieff 2, Nichol 2, Stark 2, Aitken, Brotherstone, C Redpath, G Parker, penalty try. Cons: G Parker 7. Jed-Forest: Try: Yule. Con: C Richards.

Stirling County 26 Boroughmuir 26

Stirling County: Tries: McPhate, penalty try. Cons: Logan 2. Pens: Logan 3. Dropped goal: Sangster. Boroughmuir: Tries: Burns, Laird. Cons: Reechie 2. Pens: Reechie 4

Watsonians 35 Currie 10

Watsonians: Tries: Hannah 2, Brown, J McDonald. Cons: Hodge 3. Pens: Hodge 3. Currie: Try: Forrester. Con: Donaldson. Pen: Donaldson.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melrose	8	8	0	0	411	131	16
Watsonians	8	7	0	1	342	137	14
Currie	8	6	0	2	191	142	12
Boroughmuir	9	4	1	4	274	207	9
Hawick	8	3	0	5	150	215	6
Heriot's FP	9	2	0	7	163	292	4
Jed-Forest	8	2	0	6	140	348	4
Stirling County	8	0	1	7	112	311	1

Second division

Edinburgh Acads 16 West of Scotland 17

Edinburgh Academicals: Try: Duncan. Con: Easson. Pens: Easson 3. West of Scotland: Tries: Stott, Williamson. Cons: Barratt 2. Pen: Barratt.

Glasgow HK 25 Gala 11

Glasgow High/Kelvinside: Tries: Caldwell, Common, M Wallace. Cons: Manning 2. Pens: Manning 2. Gala: Try: Boland. Pens: C Patterson 2

Kelso 24 Glasgow Acads 23

Kelso: Tries: Ross, Rowley. Con: Aitchison. Pens: Aitchison 4. Glasgow Academicals: Tries: Matheson, McGregor. Cons: McGregor 2. Pens: McGregor 3.

POSTPONED: Dundee HSFP v Biggar.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Edinburgh Ac	8	6	0	2	214	117	12
Dundee HSFP	8	5	1	2	217	144	11
W of Scotland	8	5	1	2	205	185	11
Glasgow Ac	9	5	0	4	232	208	10
Glasgow HK	8	4	1	3	190	184	9
Kelso	9	4	0	5	216	275	8
Gala	9	2	1	6	250	264	5
Biggar	7	0	0	7	112	259	0

Third division

Kilmarnock 19 Preston Lodge 17
Musselburgh 22 Glasgow S 20
Peebles 39 Stewart's Mel FP 10
Selkirk 10 Kirkcaldy 44

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kirkcaldy	8	8	0	0	305	115	16
Kilmarnock	8	6	0	2	207	172	12
Musselburgh	8	5	0	3	187	197	10
Preston Lodge	9	5	0	4	230	208	10
Selkirk	9	5	0	4	183	226	10
Peebles	9	3	0	6	190	243	6
Glasgow S	9	2	0	7	185	200	4
Stewart's Mel	8	0	0	8	101	267	0

Fourth division

Glenrothes 15 Corstorphine 31
Gordonians 15 Ayr 12
Haddington 10 Grangemouth 16
Hillhead/J 52 Langholm 23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gordonians	8	7	0	1	178	98	14
Ayr	9	6	0	3	180	132	12
Hillhead/J	8	5	0	3	201	139	10
Glenrothes	9	5	0	4	168	168	10
Grangemouth	8	4	1	3	153	137	9
Corstorphine	8	4	0	4	144	126	8
Haddington	8	1	1	6	97	218	3
Langholm	8	0	0	8	112	217	0

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South: Pool one: Oxfordshire 10 Hertfordshire 66 (at Oxford). Pool two: Middlesex 34 Buckinghamshire 22 (at Old Merchant Taylors'); Somerset 29 Devon 19 (at Weston-super-Mare). Pool three: Dorset and Wiltshire 43 Berkshire 13 (at Salisbury); Hampshire 31 Eastern Counties 19 (at Havant). Pool four: Cornwall 29 Sussex 10 (at Camborne); Kent 20 Gloucestershire 21 (at Maidstone). North: Pool one: Cumbria 48 Lancashire 12 (at Aspatria); East Midlands 8 Leicestershire 53 (at Towcestrians). Pool two: Northumberland 21 Cheshire 3 (at Northern); Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire 22 Warwickshire 27 (at Newark). Pool three: Staffordshire 10 North Midlands 44 (at Burton); Yorkshire 36 Durham 5 (at Hull Ionians).

SRU UNDER-18 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Scottish Borders 5 Caledonia 5 (at Hawick); Glasgow 31 Edinburgh 24 (at Braidholm)

CLUB MATCHES: Saturday: Askeans 16 Sutton and Epsom 31; Birmingham/Solihull 32 Leamington 14; Charlton Park 3 Park House 13, Clifton 41 Plymouth 16; Hereford 12 Berry Hill 3; Leeds 24 Newcastle 23; Leicester 87 Cambridge University 5; Lydney 19 Worcester 9; North Walsham 32 Diss 3; Swansea 48 Saracens 32; Walsall 35 Lichfield 8; Wharfedale 25 Harrogate 17. Yesterday: Camborne 15 Redruth 10. Cancelled: Aspatria v Northern; Sandal v Hull Ionians; Stourbridge v Wolverhampton.

International match

France 12 South Africa 22

France: Pens: Dourthe 4. South Africa: Tries: Small, Joubert. Pens: Honiball 4

(in Bordeaux)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland 27 Holland 3 (at Meggetland).

SUN ALLIANCE COLTS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cheshire 8 East Midlands 27; Kent 17 Warwickshire 16.

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Fourth round: North: Huddersfield YMCA 86 Phoenix Park 0.

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Fourth round: North: Postponed: Aspull v Sedgeley Park.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Tour match: Newbury 21 Western Samoa XV 35. Club match: Reading 20 Old Crescent 16

THE [illegible] TIMES

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Shortage of world class on the Cardiff stage prevents Campese bowing out in style

Australia fail to match their own highest standards

Wales	19
Australia	28

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE southern hemisphere three, the northern hemisphere nil. A weekend of international rugby has brought three sides representing the southern powers to Europe and still the gap in class is evident, even if genuine class was in short supply at the National Stadium, Cardiff, yesterday.

The curious thing about this match, however, was that, while celebrations should be greeting an unbeaten Australian tour — only the Barbarians at Twickenham next Saturday can stop them now — instead their is regret at their apparent regression from the heights of 1984 and 1991.

It was not the departure that David Campese would have wanted. Happy that the team, which he has always placed before the individual, had won in his 101st and last international, Campese at least turned the jeers of the retreating Welsh crowd of 44,000 to cheers as he made his final bow.

The jeers, in any case, were as much for the match officials as for a game as disappointing as the one at Twickenham on Saturday was uplifting. Iain Ramage, in his first international, appeared at times to be playing to a different set of laws, notably where the knock-on and the ruck were concerned.

For all that, Australia nearly contrived to concede a position of comparative comfort: from 18-6 up at the interval, then 18-9, they camped on the Wales line and then chose to run three penalties in succession rather than kick at goal. From the third, a switch between Gregan and Horan went horribly wrong and Thomas cantered 100 metres for an interception try.

When Jonathan Davies kicked the conversion and added his fourth penalty goal, a minor sporting miracle had been achieved and Wales were in front, despite being overwhelmed in the lineout and beaten for loose ball. This has been a weekend for basic truths, however, in Bordeaux, at Twickenham and now in Cardiff, where that most unromantic of scores, a penalty try, finally ensured victory for Australia.

If anyone had the right to celebrate it was David Giffin, whose feats in the Super 12 this year pushed him to prominence. This was his first international and, together with the veteran Tim Gavin, he eclipsed the Welsh lineout to such an extent that the return of Jonathan Davies seemed irrelevant, so little ball passed through his hands.

Barbarian brilliance 35
Rowell's problems 35

The little stand-off half rewarded an enthusiastic Wales start with an angled penalty goal in only the second minute before the Australians imposed themselves: Burke, with Giffin the outstanding player on the field, levelled matters then went one better by snatching a try from under Ieuan Evans's disbelieving nose. Evans believed a midfield knock-on had occurred but play went on, Howard chipped to the corner and Burke zoomed under Evans's arms for the touchdown.

When Brial peeled off a lineout maul to score in the corner, the outlook seemed ominous for Wales, who had already lost Taylor to injury, his place going to the newcomer, Charvis. Australia, who started this tour trying to develop a mauling style of play, are turning to another with which they have yet to come to terms. It seems allied to old-style English play, much of it revolving around Horan from inside centre, but at this stage it has too much sideways drift.

Australia, too, are prey to the new fashion of ignoring kicks at goal in the interests of gaining a lineout deep in the opposing 22. From one such kick from Campese, spinning beautifully into touch one metre short of the Wales line, Brial gained his try, but there are times when it seems a wasted opportunity.

Even so, Australia's command seemed immutable, the departure of Proctor and the emergence of Jenkins another inconvenience for Wales. Yet the galloping Thomas gave them new heart, and when Finegan was penalised for stamping and Davies kicked the goal, Wales had more than pride to play for.

To Australia's credit, they regrouped and camped in the Wales 22. Finegan was over the line but Howley, underneath him, prevented the try. A collapsed scrum might have earned a penalty try for Australia and when Giffin was upended at a lineout, Burke's non-kicking foot slipped and the resultant penalty attempt flew wide.

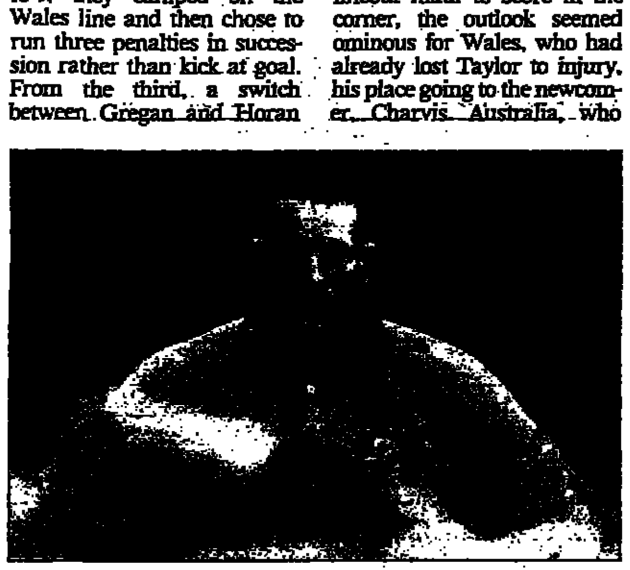
It was all mere deferment. Wales offended once more at a ruck and Burke made amends. The full back then cantered towards the line and, if this had been a fairy story, he would have seen Campese on his right and sent him in for a valedictory try. But Burke turned inside and was hauled down centimetres short. Finegan was called back and finally a Wales scrum, retreating fast, caved in and the referee pointed to the posts for the score that made Australia safe.

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Thomas. Conversion: Davies. Penalty goals: Davies (4). Australia: Tries: Burke, Brial, penalty try. Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (3).

WALES: W T Proctor (Llanelli); I C Evans (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend), I S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Bridgend); J Davies (Cardiff), R Howley (Cardiff); C D Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), D Young (Cardiff), H T Taylor (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), D Jones (Cardiff), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), S M Williams (Neath). Taylor replaced by C Charvis (Swansea, 16min); Proctor replaced by N R Jenkins (Pontypridd, 50); D Jones replaced by J C Quinnell (Richmond, 71).

AUSTRALIA: M Burke (NSW); J W Roff (ACT), J S Little (Queensland), T J Horan (Queensland, captain), D I Campese (NSW); P W Howard (ACT), G M Gregan (ACT); D J Crowley (Queensland), M A Foley (Queensland), A T Blades (NSW), O Finegan (ACT), B T Gavin (NSW), D Giffin (ACT), D J Wilson (Queensland), M C Brial (NSW).

Referee: D I Ramage (Scotland).



Campese was a peripheral figure in his final appearance

Davies, back in the Wales No 10 shirt, had few opportunities to impress against Australia in Cardiff yesterday. Photographs: Julian Herbert

Welsh failings deny Davies the breaks

Andrew Longmore watches the Cardiff stand-off half make a solid if unspectacular return to international rugby union

The game has not changed that much since Jonathan Davies went into exile, those eight years ago. Not even the rugby messiah, as his scrum-half Robert Howley had termed him, can play without the ball. Indeed, as he spent much of the first half chasing shadows or with the head of Michael Brial, the Australia No 8, driving into his midriff, Davies must have wondered if league and union had not somehow fused into one game without anyone telling him.

For the most part of a strangely anti-climactic afternoon at the Arms Park, it was the deep-chested tackling skills learnt on chilling afternoons in Widnes rather than the art of dummy and run perfected in the valleys that kept Davies alive. When he returns to his other life, as development officer of the Welsh Rugby Union, this morning, his first memo might have something to do with finding a back-row of athletes to match the best of the southern hemisphere and a lock who can catch the ball. Poor old Derwyn Jones, built like a giraffe and with handling to match.

Yet, somewhere in the mayhem, Davies's influence could be felt. A matter of an old head on old shoulders. While his team streaked out onto the field, Davies jogged out, tenth in line, with all the assurance of a man who knows he will need every ounce of his energy closer to tea-time.

During the singing of the anthems, the ritual Davies said he was anticipating most eagerly, the stand-off half stood stock still, bandaged hands clasped firmly behind his back, his eyes searching for his wife, Karen, and his eight-year-old son in the stands.

There is no doubt his presence quickened the step of of the crowd flowing past the Taff, those who have been used to approaching the national stadium in recent years with all the enthusiasm of a funeral march. Outside, on the streets around the stadium, there was a glimmer of faith and a whiff of hope.

In the mind's eye of the faithful, at last Wales had someone behind the scrum who knew what he was doing. And if that is cruel to a host of successors, not least Neil Jenkins, then blame Barry John and Phil Bennett, men who had elevated the No 10 jersey to the status of national monument. The weight had buried Arwel Thomas.

Despite the eight-year gap, the advancing age, the personal trauma of illness to both his wife and, more recently, his father-in-law, little on the rugby field would be new to the revived Davies.

It was for his experience, his infectious assurance, that the Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, turned once more to the familiar, bouncing, figure. In that sense, he let no one down. In the welter of publicity that had accompanied his return to international rugby union, Davies had spoken with customary eloquence of the expectations heaped upon him. Equally, he had talked with a paternal air of having seen it all before.

Derwyn Jones: struggle

While immune neither to the depression that has settled over the valleys since his departure to rugby league in 1989, nor the unrealistic hopes of his people, Davies represents an altogether brighter era. At least the Welsh then had a stand-off half to stand alongside the best.

Some rhythms have survived the travels. Yesterday, his kicking was unruffled: a long, hard look at the ball, a dainty move to the left and a gentle parabola through the posts. Five kicks out of five. Otherwise, it was a case of damage limitation. Davies's tactical kicking, such as it was, seemed rusty. The dummy is still in the locker, but the pace at the end of it has understandably been lost to time. He can see the gaps, anticipate the dangers, but takes a little longer to arrive at the scene of the crime these days.

That Australia did not turn the Davies comeback into a rout, every bit as embarrassing as the previous five meetings, was down to some stubborn defence, some disruptive refereeing and a lack of incisiveness by their backs. The one time David Campese had a chance of crowning his 101st and last international with a try, Burke, the Australia full-back, looked the other way.

So, these two great warriors, had to make do with a handshake and an embrace at the end. It would be naive to suggest that Davies is anything more than a stop-gap and his almost distracted air suggested he knew as much. Only at half-time, when reading the riot act to the Wales side, did he seem fully involved. But then no one thought he would get this far after ending last season on Cardiff's bench. The British Isles tour beckons in the summer. Davies might not be able to resist a nightcap. It depends if the taste for one last triumph still remains.

Queensland's young guns hand out lesson

London Counties	16
Queensland	64

BY PAUL TROW

NOT all the Queensland side were as youthful as their 17-year-old centre, Lachlan Grant, but they had a collective spring in their step that a makeshift London line-up, comprising mainly third-division players, were unable to match. As one wag at Sunbury put it: "It was men against boys, and the men didn't stand a chance."

Queensland scored ten tries and conceded one, right at the end. The result meant that Queensland, at best a second-choice squad with so many of their first team on duty with the senior Australia tour party, had completed a clean sweep of victories from their four outings in the Counties of Origin series.

From the moment their loose-head prop, Glen Panoho, went over for a try in the opening minute, the sparse but vociferous crowd were in no doubt as to what the result would be. Shane Drahm, Queensland's quicksilver, 19-year-old, stand-off half, duly slotted the first of his seven successful conversions and the Australians were on their way.

Tim Stoddart, the Queensland hooker, scored the second try after ten minutes, but the visitors only led 14-9 halfway through the first half after three successful penalty kicks from Craig Raymond, the London Welsh stand-off half.

The last 20 minutes of the first half, however, was a period of almost uninterrupted possession for Queensland and it was no surprise that during that spell they accumulated a further 26 points.

Andrew Coombe, the flanker, opened the floodgates and there were also tries for Damien McInally, Drahm and Mark Gabey, the No 8, who often doubles up as a lock forward and who was also involved in the other incident of note during the first half when he found himself engaged in a bout of "handbags" with Nick Oldham. Ashley Rowden, the referee, showed the yellow card to both.

The rest of the game was played in a friendly spirit, but that is not to say that it was not physically demanding. By the 65th minute, London had used all six of their replacements, and Britten Pearce, their No 8, who had been tactically substituted before the interval, was forced to return to the fray.

Within five minutes of the restart, London seemed likelu to be submerged under an avalanche of points, with Queensland's centres, Grant and James Sullivan, each running in a try. Strangely, though, especially as they were much the fitter side, Queensland appeared to lose their competitive edge, scoring only two further tries, a second for Panoho and a late effort by his fellow prop, John Watkins. London, who battled bravely to the end despite being outgunned and outclassed, were rewarded when Pearce grounded their lone try in the last minute.

Afterwards, John Connolly, the Queensland coach, criticised his side's lack of second-half punch, and added: "I was disappointed we didn't have stronger opposition, but you can only play whoever turns up. This tour has been in place for 12 months so everyone knew we were coming."

SCORERS: London Counties: Tries: Pearce. Conversions: Raymond. Penalty goals: Raymond (3). Queensland: Tries: Panoho (2), Coombe, Drahm, Gabey, Grant, McInally, Stoddart, Sullivan, Watkins. Conversions: Drahm (7).

LONDON COUNTIES: H Rushin (Havant); A Pinnock (Havant), S Boydell (Havant), J Alexander (Esher), P Futter (Rosslyn Park); C Raymond (London Welsh), D Jones (Havant); D Rees (Havant), C Ritchie (Rosslyn Park), J Davies (Esher, capt), S Smith (Rosslyn Park), D Ruffell (Rosslyn Park), I Campbell-Lamerton, (Rosslyn Park), N Oldham (Havant), B Pearce (Havant). Pearce replaced by M Reeve (Havant, 27min); Ruffell replaced by C Brierley (Orrell, 40). Rushin replaced by N Marvel (Rosslyn Park, 47); Pinnock replaced by J Coulson (Wasps, 52); Davies replaced by J Cameron (Havant, 57); Smith replaced by Pearce (61); Ritchie replaced by A Tucker (London Welsh, 65).

QUEENSLAND: T Mandrusiak (captain); M Bartholomeusz, L Grant, J Sullivan, D McInally, S Drahm, B Free; G Panoho, T Stoddart, J Watkins, A Coombe, S Luke, R Johnson, G Hislop, M Gabey. Hislop replaced by T Boston (40).

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

Midlanders crushed by power play

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARIUS GOOSEN scored four tries as South Africa A crushed Midland Counties 62-7 at Coventry yesterday, their biggest win of their 12-match tour of Great Britain and Ireland. Their impressive all-round display was somewhat marred in the closing stages when Jannie Coetzee, a flanker, was sent off for swinging wild punches in a maul.

The South Africans brushed aside the home side's gallant efforts with ease. Goosen scored tries in the first minute of each half and had a hat-trick by half-time, when South Africa A led 41-0. They lifted their foot off the pedal in the second half, when the Midlands managed to exert some pressure, but their only score was a penalty try awarded for a late tackle on Wayne Kilford, the Midlands' full back, which Jez Harris, the stand-off half, converted.

The South Africans carried too much pace, power and physical strength for their opponents and ran in ten tries, with Louis Koen, their stand-off half, converting six of them. They rocked the Midlanders right from the first whistle and were 12 points ahead within three minutes.

Goosen sprinted over inside 60 seconds and then Koen converted a try near the posts after an electrifying break by Dowie du Toit, the full back. The match was more or less over for the Midlands at that stage, though they stuck gamely to their task and tackled enthusiastically to the end.

☐ Llanelli signed Robert Card, the Canada international, last night. Card, 22, from Vancouver, arrives at Stradey Park on a two-year deal as a potential replacement for Jonathan Griffiths, the former Wales international, who moved to Tenby United last week.

North no match for Argentina's speed

North Counties	16
Argentina XV	64

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WEARILY and predictably, the discredited Counties of Origin series concluded on a humiliating note for the depleted North Counties at Huddersfield yesterday, whipping boys for an indulgent Argentina XV.

A ten-try victory completed Argentina's grand slam of the four English divisions, a simple feat given the low standard of opposition. Despite the uneasy peace that now exists between the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU), the politics of stripping the divisions of their best players still meant the North was a pale shadow of the side it should have been.

Apart from the New Zealand Barbarians, the North had been expected to run Queensland, South Africa A and Argentina close. Instead, four hefty defeats in 12 days have disillusioned a once-proud division, which in its heyday upset New Zealand and Australia.

The McAlpine Stadium at Huddersfield staged three of the matches but together they attracted fewer than 5,000 customers. If this is the future of professionalism, there is no future, and certainly not one for the divisions. Again, yesterday, the mostly junior and second-team players who stepped into the breach toiled bravely, but they were heavily punished by opponents altogether stronger, faster and more proficient.

Argentina have scored 242 points in four outings without breaking sweat. As preparation for the international against England on Saturday week, the matches have been no guide. A problem for the Pumas is that they have yet to encounter opposition who can tackle. As the second-string team will play in the only meaningful game, against England A, four days before the England match itself, the danger is they could be badly exposed at Twickenham.

Even a denuded North asked enough questions about Argentina's defence, temperament and discipline to suggest these problems could manifest themselves at a higher level.

But there was always their speed to get them out of any trouble and, although the home side kept reasonable pace for 25 minutes, they inevitably ran out of steam.

Despite the concession of early tries by Viel and Bouza, his first, the North were undaunted. Stabler landed the first of four successful goal attempts, including one penalty from 45 metres. Monaghan was quick and alert to touch down Stabler's angled kick through, but the good work was undone as Thompson missed Soler, who chipped over the head of Massey for his first score.

Argentina ended the first half with a flourish. Simone shrugged off three tackles for a fine individual score, Giannantonio wrestled his way to the line, and Soler side-stepped Massey for the sixth.

Stabler's penalty at the start of the second half was the North's last scoring contribution. They engineered some good positions, only to surrender them. Solari was unmarked for his two tries, Grau scored at the bottom of a rolling maul and Bouza peeled off the scrum to round off the North's black day.

SCORERS: North Counties: Try: Monaghan. Conversion: Stabler. Penalty goals: Stabler (3). Argentina XV: Tries: Bouza (2), Soler (2), Solari (2), Viel, Simone, Giannantonio, Grau. Conversions: Cilley (7).

NORTH COUNTIES: P Massey (Wakefield); G Monaghan (Waterloo), D Elliott (Rotherham), S Burnhill (Rotherham), R Thompson (Wakefield); J Stabler (West Hartlepool), S Cook (Orrell); M Worsley (Orrell), T Garnett (Wakefield), S Turner (Orrell), P Angelsea (Orrell), P Rees (Orrell), P Stewart (Wakefield), P Manley (Wakefield, captain), J Dudley (Rotherham). Elliott replaced by C Lee (West Hartlepool, 39min); Cook replaced by D Scully (Wakefield, 52); Stewart replaced by A Ludiman (Harrogate, 52); Stabler replaced by T Handley (Waterloo, 60); Worsley replaced by R Latham (Wakefield, 70); Garnett replaced by A Moffat (Orrell, 73).

ARGENTINA XV: D Giannantonio; S Soler, E Simone, L Arbizu (captain), T Solari; J Cilley, N Miranda; M Reggiardo, O Hasan, M Ledesma, G Garcia, I Lobbe, G Llanes, C Viel, P Bouza. Garcia replaced by R Perez (12); Lobbe replaced by R Grau (39).

Referee: D Méné (France).

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RUGBY UNION: CAPTAIN INSPIRATIONAL AS SOUTH AFRICA REGISTER FOURTH SUCCESSIVE VICTORY

Benetton's desperate tackle cannot prevent South Africa from launching another attack during their triumph against France in Bordeaux. Photograph: Bob Edme

Teichmann mounts French blockade

France	12
South Africa	22

FROM BARNEY SPENDER
IN BORDEAUX

FRANCOIS PIENAAR was always going to be a difficult act to follow, but Gary Teichmann, the new South Africa captain, seems to have done it. While Pienaar has stayed at home, Teichmann has quietly picked up the public relations baton and carried it confidently through Argentina and France.

More important for his country, victory at Parc Lescure here on Saturday means that he has now delivered four successive victories in international matches for South Africa, including one against the All Blacks.

This latest success came on the back of a superb first-half display, which put them 19-6 up, and a second half in which the South Africa defence showed exactly where the French lorry drivers learnt their blockade tactics. The French midfield were left wincing from the strength of the tackles that they came up against.

In both halves, the Zimbabwe-born Teichmann was in the thick of things. It was his dummy in the fifth minute that created the space for Henry Honiball and André Joubert to put away James Small, the right wing, for his side's first try.

Then, in the second half, with the French camped on the South Africa line, came the moment and the tackle that turned the game irrevocably against France.

Abdel Benazzi, who took time to warm to the captaincy, drove from close range over the South African line, but Teichmann was there, and he hit him with such force as to take him back five metres and concede the scrummage. There were echoes of the World Cup semi-final in Durban last year, where Benazzi was stopped just inches short of the line.

The South Africa No 8 did not, of course, fashion this win exclusively. The locks, Kobus Wiese and Mark Andrews, dominated the inexperienced French pair, while Honiball, the stand-off half, controlled the game well and also kicked four penalties.

Honiball, who is built like a loose forward, was particuarly savage in defence, where he lived up to his nickname of Lem — the Afrikaans word for blade — with a series of scything tackles that scattered a number of French attacks.

Joubert also had a gem of a game, his line-kicking tormenting Richard Dourthe all afternoon and his pace, which is still sharp for a 33-year-old, giving him the edge in the race to touch down Small's clever chip for South Africa's second try, in the 28th minute.

That South Africa did not go on to administer a more decisive beating was partly a result of the side relaxing at half-time, and partly because the French suddenly remembered that passion and gumption also had a role to play.

With the ball getting more slippery, South Africa allowed four turnovers from their own lineout possession at the start of the second half, and from that point on the French gained considerably in confidence.

Dourthe pulled back a couple of penalties to reduce the deficit to seven points, but even then France never really looked like scoring a try.

Missing six regulars, it is easy to make excuses, but there can rarely have been a time when a France side had so much ball and so little idea of what to do with it. It is difficult to see where they can improve for the second international, next week, but this may well signal the start of the "bring back Philippe Sella" campaign.

Their only plan was for the forwards to charge en masse for the line, but it takes a more sophisticated key to unlock this South Africa defence, and when that did not work, they had nothing else to offer.

SCORERS: France: Penalty goals: Dourthe (4) South Africa: Tries: Small, Joubert. Penalty goals: Honiball (4).

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny; R Dourthe, S Glas, G Bouic, D Berty; L Mazas, P Carbonneau; C Califano, M de Rougemont, F Tournaire, A Benazzi (captain), H Miorin, F Pelous, P Benetton, T Labrousse. Glas replaced by C Lamaison (60min); Berty replaced by D Venditti (45); De Rougemont replaced by M dal Maso (72); Labrousse replaced by R Castel (52).

SOUTH AFRICA: A Joubert; J Small, J Mulder, H le Roux, J Olivier; H Honiball, J van der Westhuizen; D Theron, J Dalton, A Garvey, R Kruger, J Wiese, M Andrews, A Venter, G Teichmann (captain). Theron replaced by T van der Linde (70), Dalton replaced by H Tromp (78)

Referee: B Stirling (Ireland).

Campion tackle the domination of independents

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

THE Campion School, in Hornchurch, Essex, is a rare beacon of consistent rugby union excellence in state education. The domination of independent schools in the sport can be shown by the fact that, of the 22 members of the English schools squad last season, only six came from the maintained sector.

The Campion School has provided a continuous flow of players into elite rugby in recent years. Damian Cronin and Tony Diprose, were both educated there, as were seven of the present Saracens first-team squad. Quarter-finalists in the *Daily Mail* national knockout cup last season, they were semi-finalists in the two previous years. This season, playing in the St Joseph's Festival at Ipswich, they beat both Glantaf, the Welsh champions, and Campbell College, the Irish champions, before losing to Colston's, the English champions. Seven of the present team are in the Eastern Counties schools squad.

Last Thursday, Campion defeated Mill Hill 43-8 in the national knockout tournament and are now through to the fourth round.

It was, perhaps, the tiring mental and physical effect of that game that took the edge off their performance at Hampton School on Saturday, when they had to rouse themselves in the second half to win 13-11.

After the school was founded in 1962, there was a deliberate policy to focus on rugby rather than football in order to achieve regional prominence. Steve Timbs, an old boy and master in charge at Hampton for the past 15 years, said: "Even if a school were good at football it would be anonymous because so many others play that game, particularly in that area. Rugby was what got the Campion School to be well-known."

Masters, particularly John Davies, the former London Welsh player, have made a sizeable contribution.

Chris Jones, the master in charge of rugby, said: "There is massive enthusiasm for the game at the school. Everyone is concerned how the first XV got on the previous Saturday."

The school, of 800 boys, has built up a strong fixture list despite the difficulty of finding opposition. Jones said: "However, we are always up against the tradition of breaking the mould of public school fixtures." To reinforce their programme, they tour abroad every third year and will visit Australia next summer.

Hampton always suffer from the disadvantage of the 970 boys being pulled in three directions during the winter; rugby, football and rowing (Greg and Jonny Searle both went to the school, and Martin Cross, another Olympic champion, teaches there). In any one year group of 150 boys, 25 will play rugby, 25 will row and 100 will play football.

As Timbs graphically put it: "If I had had the first eight [rowing] available we might get more ball in lineouts." Still, Hampton have won 11 of their 14 regular fixtures this season.

Jones said: "We were chasing the game today. Normally we are very organised, we know what we are doing in every situation. But we were disjointed, sometimes took the wrong options and lost our shape.

"However, this team has the potential to be very good when everything gels together. The boys are well-motivated and Jon Skurr has matured into a good captain."

Timbs thought that it had been a strangely muted game. "They had much more of the territory. We played better rugby but in the end paid for the looseness in the second half."

Hampton went ahead with a penalty goal landed by Andrew Beattie, the No 8, who was to prove a danger throughout the game. Pat Hinchin then scored a try for the Campion School, only for Toby Drinkwater to restore Hampton's lead.

John Brickell kicked a penalty for the visiting team to make the score 8-8 at half-time. Simon Amor nimbly dropped a goal in the 52nd minute to put Hampton ahead again, only for disorder in their defence to cost them the game in the 64th minute, when Luke Maguire evaded two tackles to touch down.

HAMPTON SCHOOL: E Martin; R Gaines, A Jones, A Brickell, T Drinkwater; S Amor, R Hoadley; D Renowden A Scott-Jones, G Kowalski, A Jaljee, D Fleming; G Wilcock, B Woolton, A Beattie. Renowden replaced by J Rowe.

CAMPION SCHOOL: B McEwan; M Yallop, W Walton, M Pearce, L Maguire; J Brickell, D Nash; P Hinchin, S Castles; D Garrett, D O'Rourke, S Sullivan, M Chenye, S Dickenson, J Skurr

THE TIMES
TOMORROW
FOOTBALL
Spurs attempt to bounce back against Liverpool after their humiliating midweek defeat
ARTS
Howard Hodgkin, the British painter, on the eve of his exhibition at the Hayward Gallery
ITF
The ultimate football challenge
COMPETITION
Win one of twelve fabulous prizes in our "12 Days of Christmas" competition
http://www.the-times.co.uk
CHANGING TIMES

Durable Kendal fly in face of adversity

Exeter	12
Kendal	18

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

SEVERAL northern clubs are becoming well acquainted with adversity, but few cope with it quite so well as Kendal did on Saturday. In four years, the Cumbria side have never had a home tie in the Pilkington Cup and, this time, they had to travel to Exeter for their fourth-round clash.

For their part, Exeter, who are above Kendal in the the league, in third position, were more than 300 miles away and had lost only two home games in the last 18 months, one of which was in the same round of the cup last year, to a team called Leicester. The prospects, therefore, looked bleak for Kendal but they overcame the odds with a hearty performance.

If Kendal had difficulties to cope with, so too did Exeter. Seven of their first team were required to turn out for Western Counties against Argentina in midweek and two of those had to miss this game because of resultant injuries. Meanwhile, the other five must have been mighty tired if this performance was anything to go by.

The players that fleetingly caught the eye were invariably on the Exeter team, but their collective efforts were shapeless and they seemed incapable of sustaining their coherent passages of play. Kendal, on the other hand, channelled their energies effectively, particularly in the second half, when they mauled Exeter into submission.

Exeter finally woke from their slumber in the last five minutes and scored two tries, through Mark Woodman and Richard John, but by then Kendal had opened up an 18-0 lead. Eleven of those points were scored during their period of dominance in the second half, and each score was founded upon the strength of their forwards. Slater and Hudson were the beneficiaries, with a try and two penalties respectively, and, with Mike Healey having snatched an easy try in the first half, Kendal were safe from the Exeter revival.

Full results and league tables ... Page 32

Kendal's relentless pilgrimage in the cup now continues into the next round, where they have to travel to high-flying Coventry of division two. Surely that will be a mission too far.

SCORERS: Exeter: Tries: Woodman, John. Conversion: Green. Kendal: Tries: Healey, Slater. Conversion: Hudson. Penalty goals: Hudson (2).

EXETER: J Fabian; M Woodman, A Turner, J Thomas, S Doyle; A Green, R John; R Gibbins, M Woollorton, W Reed, J Batchelor, J Hudson, R Baxter, R Hutchinson, M Cathery. Woollorton replaced by K Brooking (58min); Thomas replaced by M Webb (74).

KENDAL: J Hudson; K Moore, P Dodds, M Healey, J Slater; D Bell, M Airey; B Coxon, J Nicholson, N Pearson, C Wolstenholme, J Bracken, K Robinson, I Downham, M Bowman.

Referee: S Leyshon (Bristol).

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Tottenham v Liverpool (8 0)

Spalding Cup
Second round
Hednesford v Kidderminster (7 45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Hyde v Boston United.
FA YOUTH CUP: First round replay: Bournemouth v Yeovil. Second round: Oldham v York; Charlton v Brentford; Oxford v Luton
SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Shropshire v Warwickshire (at Lilleshall). FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Berkshire v Oxfordshire (at Bracknell Town).

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Bath v Western Samoa XV (7 15)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg: Newcastle (1) v FC Metz (1) (8.0).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Middlesbrough v Leicester (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Barnsley (7 45). Reading v Tranmere (7 45). Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield (7 45). Second division: Blackpool v Plymouth; Brentford v Notts County (7.45): Bristol City v Watford (7 45). Burnley v Wrexham (7.45): Bury v Preston (7.45): Chesterfield v Peterborough (7 45): Gillingham v Crewe (7 45): Luton v York (7 45): Rotherham v Stockport (7 45); Shrewsbury v Bournemouth: Walsall v Bristol Rovers (7.45): Wycombe v Millwall (7.45). Third division: Barnet v Leyton Orient (7 45): Brighton v Darlington (7 45). Cambridge Utd v Mansfield (7 45): Cardiff v Swansea, Chester v Fulham: Exeter v Hereford (7.45): Lincoln v Carlisle; Northampton v Hull (7.45): Scarborough v Colchester. Scunthorpe v Hartlepool: Torquay v Rochdale (7 45): Wigan v Doncaster (7 45).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dunfermline v Celtic (8.0). First division: East Fife v Dundee. Second division: Clyde v Stranraer. Third division: Alloa v Albion, Cowdenbeath v Forfar

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 1A: Bristol v Neath.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Derby (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: European League: TPS Turku (Fin) v Manchester.

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Auxerre v Rangers (at Abbé-Deschamps Stadium); GC Zurich v Ajax (at Letzigrund Stadium). Group B: Atletico Madrid v Widzew Lodz (at Vicente Calderon Stadium). Borussia Dortmund v Steaua Bucharest (at Westfalenstadion) Group C: Juventus v Fenerbahçe (at Delle Alpi Stadium); Rapid Vienna v Manchester United (at Gerhard-Hanappi Stadium). Group D: AC Milan v Rosenborg (at Giuseppe Meazza Stadium). IFK Gothenburg v FC Porto (at Gamla Ullevi Stadium)
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Southampton (7.45); West Ham v Aston Villa (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Charlton (7.45)
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Hamilton v Brechin

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Combined Services v Argentina XV (at Recreation, Plymouth, 6.0). Combined Leicester/Northampton XV v Western Samoa XV (at Leicester); Pontypridd v Queensland (7 0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: London Towers v Podgorica (Yug) (8.0).

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Classic Cola National Cup: Semi-finals, first leg: Sheffield v Newcastle (7 45); Leopards v London Towers (7.0).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v Newcastle (8.0). Basingstoke v Cardiff

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Second round: Plymouth v Exeter (7.45).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

FA CUP: Second round: Blackpool v Hednesford, Cambridge Utd v Woking; Cardiff v Gillingham (6.0); Carlisle v Darlington: Chester v Boston; Chesterfield v Scarborough; Wrexham v Scunthorpe, Enfield v Peterborough; Barnet v Wycombe, Leyton Orient v Stevenage; Luton v Boreham Wood; Mansfield v Stockport; * Walsall v Burnley; Notts County v Rochdale; Preston v York; * Sudbury Town v Brentford (at Colchester United FC); Bristol City v St Albans; Watford v Ashford; Hull v Crewe.
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Derby, Chelsea v Everton, Coventry v Tottenham; * Leicester v Blackburn; *Liverpool v Sheffield Wednesday*; Middlesbrough v Leeds; Southampton v Aston Villa; Sunderland v Wimbledon.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Southend, Birmingham v Grimsby; Charlton v Swindon, Crystal Palace v Oxford Utd; Huddersfield v Norwich; Ipswich v Wolverhampton; Manchester City v Bradford, Oldham v Queens Park Rangers; Reading v Port Vale; Sheffield Utd v Portsmouth; Stoke v Tranmere.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kettering v Slough; Kidderminster v Dover, Morecambe v Hayes; Northwich v Farnborough; Southport v Bromsgrove; Stalybridge v Halifax; Telford v Rushden & Diamonds; Welling v Bath
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dunfermline v Aberdeen, Hearts v Raith; Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Celtic; Rangers v Hibernian. First division: Airdrie v Clydebank; Dundee v Falkirk; East Fife v Partick, Greenock Morton v St Johnstone, Stirling v St Mirren. Second division: Livingston v Stenhousemuir; Stranraer v Brechin. Third division: Ross County v Montrose
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Albion v Forfar; Alloa v Hawick; Elgin v Whitehill W; Huntly v Clyde.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Barbarians v Australia XV (at Twickenham).
PILKINGTON CUP: Fourth round: Reading v Widnes (2.15).
COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bath v Harlequins; Gloucester v London Irish; Orrell v West Hartlepool (2 30); Wasps v Bristol. Third division: Leeds v Clifton.
ANGLO-WELSH COMPETITION: Group A: Blackheath v Pontypool; Cross Keys v Richmond (2.30); Maesteg v Waterloo (2 30) Group B: Abercynon v Moseley (2.30); Coventry v South Wales Police. Group C: Aberavon v Bedford (2.30). Abertillery v Nottingham (2.30), Wakefield v Cardiff Institute (2.30) Group D: Bonymaen v Rugby (2.30); London Scottish v Llandovery; Ystradgynlais v Rotherham (2.30).
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Caerphilly v Cardiff (2.30). Llanelli v Newbridge (2.30); Newport v Dunvant (2.30); Pontypridd v Bridgend (2.30); Swansea v Neath (2.30). Treorchy v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Watsonians (2.0); Currie v Melrose (2.0); Hawick v Stirling County (2.0); Jed-Forest v Heriot's FP (2.0). Second division: Biggar v Glasgow Academicals (2.0); Glasgow High/Kelvinside v Kelso (2.0); Gala v Edinburgh Academicals (2.0); West of Scotland v Dundee HSFP (2.0) Third division: Kirkcaldy v Glasgow Southern (2.0); Peebles v *Musselburgh (2.0); Preston Lodge v Selkirk* (2.0). Stewart's Melville FP v Kilmarnock (2 0) Fourth division: Ayr v Grangemouth (2.0). Corstorphine v Gordonians (2.0); Hillhead/Jordanhill v Haddington (2.0). Langholm v Glenrothes (2.0).
INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Terenure College (2.30); Cork Constitution v Instonians (2.30): Garryowen v Blackrock College (2.30); Lansdowne v Dungannon (2.30); Old Wesley v Old Belvedere (2.30); St Mary's College v Old Crescent (2.30): Young Munster v Shannon (2 30). Second division: Clontarf v UCC (2.30); Dolphin v Wanderers (2 30): Greystones v Malone (2.30). Highfield v Bective Rangers (2.30); Monkstown v DLSP (2 30); NIFC v Sunday's Well (2 30): Skerries v Derry (2.30).
CLUB MATCH: Manchester v Wilmslow (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Worthing v Leopards (8.0): 7UP Trophy: Derby v Sheffield; Leicester v Chester; Thames Valley v Birmingham (8 0)
BOXING: Scotland Amateurs v England Amateurs (in Glasgow)
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Final: Ayr v Nottingham (at Sheffield, 7 0)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham v Manchester Utd (4.0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich v Bolton (1.0).

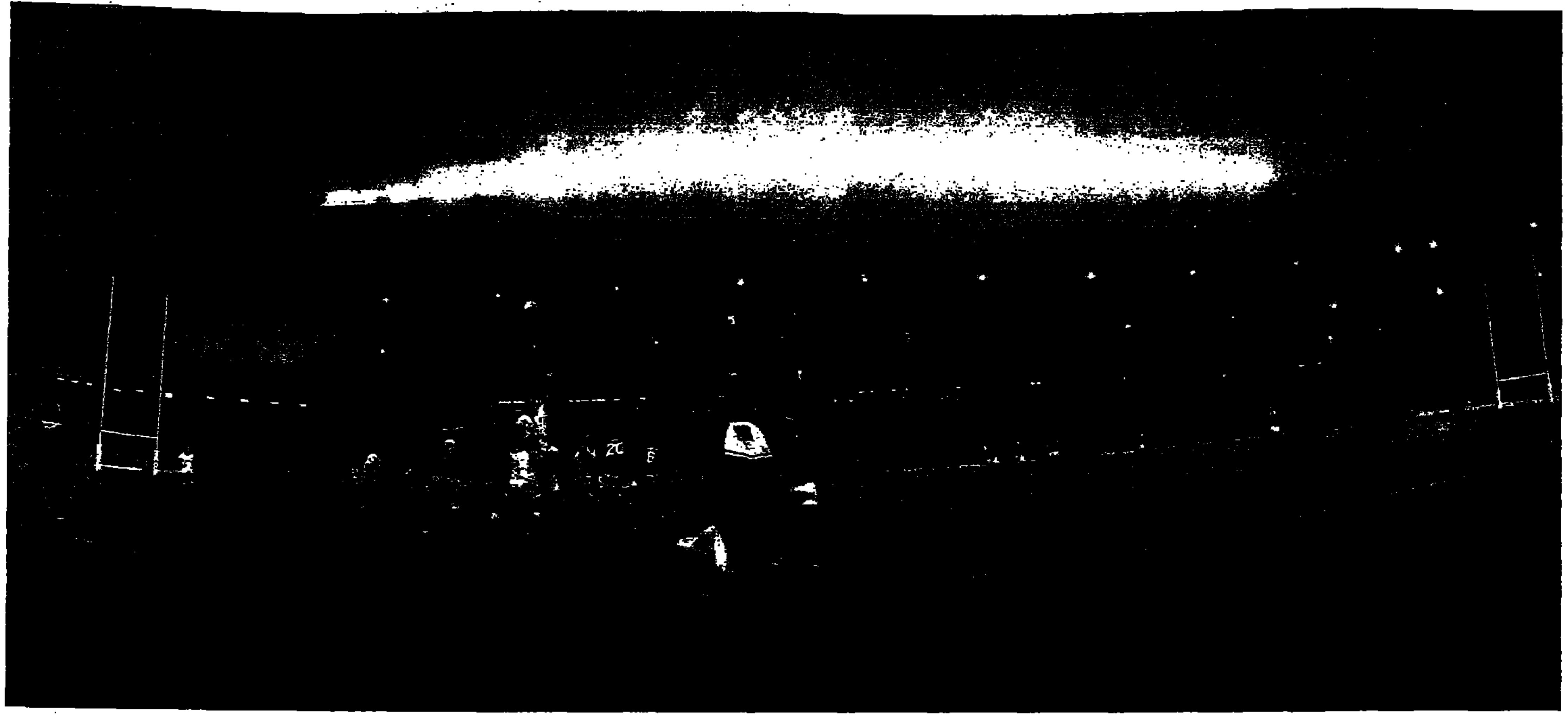
RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Leicester v Northampton (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Hemel and Watford (7.15) Classic Cola National Cup: Semi-final, second leg: London Towers v Leopards (5.0). 7UP Trophy: Chester v Newcastle (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Bracknell (6.0); Nottingham v Basingstoke; Cardiff v Sheffield (6 0)

RUGBY UNION: ROWELL'S NEW TEAM CAN LEARN FROM PULSATING ENCOUNTER WITH WORLD'S FINEST AT TWICKENHAM



A capacity crowd of 75,000 watched England and the New Zealand Barbarians light up Twickenham on Saturday with a memorable match that featured six tries. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Barbarians show England the task ahead

England	19
NZ Barbarians	34

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be an early opportunity to evaluate what England have gained from defeat at Twickenham on Saturday. The cold water thrown over them by the men from the real rugby world should mean a hardening of heart and elevation of standards against Argentina on December 14, if only to demonstrate to the players themselves that they have learnt from failure.

Failure in this match was, however, relative. If even Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, could admit that the intensity resembled that of a full international, then England could take pride in much that they did. It was a hugely satisfying manner in which to celebrate the Rugby Football Union's 125th anniversary, both for the ebb and flow, the contrasting styles and, in the end, the finesse of the New Zealand Barbarians.

"I was really pleased with the way England entered into the spirit of the game," Fitzpatrick said. What England entered was the world of modern international rugby, which is a world away from the static, stereotyped game that won them the five nations' championship last season. The challenge of the new year will be to ensure that they are not dragged back into the old world by that very championship, that the passing game that finally foundered under the pressure of the Barbarian defence can be sustained.

In Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, they already look to have a pair of locks that will go down as one of the great second-row pairings: Johnson's qualities are well known, though he surpassed even himself in his work around the field on Saturday. Shaw, with only one full cap, shows such athleticism for a big man that every aspiring lock in the country now knows that, barring injury, the door to promotion is closed. Together they will give England a rock on which to build.

Yet, if the tight five forwards prospered, it was instructive to hear John Hart's opinion of the England back row, where Tim Rodber played probably his finest game since the victory over South Africa in Pretoria two years ago. Hart, the New Zealand coach, described them as "the wrong way round," by which he perceives Rodber to be a No 8 and Lawrence Dallaglio to be a blind-side flanker. Maybe the balance there, as at centre, is a problem Jack Rowell has still to address.

Hart demonstrated an acute sense of timing as his players set about the second-half task of squeezing the life out of England. His own back row required fresh legs, so off came Taine Randell and on came Dylan Mika. England had the opportunity to do the same when Chris Sheasby went down with a bang on the knee but the Wasp stayed on, confirming Rowell's already-expressed opinion that he is no great supporter of the tactical substitution rule. Yet it is there to be used and, as the game entered its final stage, pace to the ball became critical.

Hart pinpointed that quality of speed as the vital difference between the teams, never demonstrated to better effect than whenever Christian Cullen was in possession or when Andrew Blowers ran away from Tim Stimpson for his team's third try. "Size is OK but speed, skill and strength are the critical elements in the modern game," Hart said. Speed of thought, too, which is where England were persistently caught out.

Yet some of England's approach play was as good as anything they have produced in recent years: the build-up to the two second-half tries, which carried them to a 19-13 lead, saw well-timed passes putting forwards into space before the killing thrusts — first the width of Gomarsall's pass, which gave Sleightholme his chance, then the intrusion of Dallaglio and Carling's half-break to send Stimpson over.

That they should have achieved that position given the number of times the ball was kicked away from half back was a tribute to the England forwards. There are some fundamentals to the game that cannot be ignored — unromantic things like restarts and touch-finding, and Mike Catt, in particular, fell down on them.

Times without number Cullen, Lomu and Vidiri were given the chance to run from deep by misdirected kicks and how they prospered. Cullen's speed and balance are wonderful gifts and they are matched elsewhere by Mehrtens and Spencer, two stand-offs whom every other country would die for. Mehrtens' shimmy created the void into which Blowers ran as the Barbarians, trailing 9-8, increased the pace of the game at the start of the second half.

Then Spencer, the replacement, erupted through two defenders, swerved round Gomarsall and away from Stimpson for a marvellous individual try. Individual? It has been started by Fitzpatrick's nose for the loose ball and the instant support of the forwards for their captain.

Yet this was a benchmark for England. They will have the chance to measure progress in a year's time, when many of these Barbarians will be back in their grimmer national hue, Fitzpatrick, 33, and the outstanding Michael Jones, 31, among them. "It's a fantastic job, why would you want to give it up?" Fitzpatrick, 33, said. Why indeed.

TWICKENHAM DETAILS

SCORERS: England: Tries: Sleightholme, Stimpson. Penalty goals: Catt (3). New Zealand Barbarians: Tries: Brooke, Blowers, Spencer, Vidiri. Conversion: Spencer. Penalty goals: Mehrtens (2), Spencer (2).

ENGLAND: T Stimpson (Newcastle); J Sleightholme (Bath), W Carling (Harlequins), P de Glanville (Bath, captain), A Adebayo (Bath); M Catt (Bath), A Gomarsall (Wasps); G Rowntree (Leicester), M Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), T Rodber (Northampton/Army), M Johnson (Leicester), S Shaw (Bristol), L Dallaglio (Wasps), C Sheasby (Wasps).

NEW ZEALAND BARBARIANS: C Cullen (Manawatu); J Vidiri (Counties), A Ieremia (Wellington), L Stensness (Auckland), J Lomu (Counties); A Mehrtens (Canterbury), J Marshall (Canterbury); M Allen (Taranaki), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain), O Brown (Auckland), M Jones (Auckland), I Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), A Blowers (Auckland), T Randell (Otago). Randell replaced by D Mika (Auckland, 57min); Mehrtens replaced by C Spencer (Auckland, 60); Vidiri replaced by G Osborne (North Harbour, 80).

Referee: C Thomas (Wales).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Champions hope to make early capital

By Christopher Irvine

ODSAL is an appropriate starting place for the Stones Super League next year, when Bradford Bulls play host to Warrington Wolves on March 14. No club embraced the principle of summer rugby league better than Bradford, where crowds doubled last season to more than 10,000.

An intriguing opening programme brings St Helens, the champions this year, a testing first match away to London Broncos, whom they beat twice last season with disputed tries. "It could be easier, but we've got to play them some time," Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, said. "We won't be going in cold, though, because hopefully we'll have played two or three games in the Challenge Cup by then."

Wigan Warriors, the title favourites, are at home to Halifax Blue Sox, newly-promoted Salford Reds entertain Castleford Tigers, Paris Saint-Germain visit Sheffield Eagles and Oldham Bears are away to Leeds Rhinos.

Sky Television has dropped Saturday evening fixtures in favour of live Super League matches on Friday and Sunday nights. Early rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, in January and February, form the curtain-raiser to a ten-month season for leading players. The highlight is the 22-team world club championship and the season culminates in November with a visit by Australia for a three-match series against Great Britain.

Rather than a shortage of fixtures, the danger next year is from overload. The finish of the Super League season, on August 31, will bring the start of an extended Premiership. The format for the revised competition has still to be finalised, but it could involve all 12 teams. The 23 first and second-division teams will take part in an even lengthier Divisional Premiership when their league commitments end in July.

OPENING WEEKEND: March 14, 1997: Bradford v Warrington. March 16: Leeds v Oldham; London v St Helens; Salford v Castleford; Sheffield v Paris Saint-Germain; Wigan v Halifax.

New Zealand's achievements put Rowell's problems in perspective

Michael Henderson finds the England coach in enigmatic mood at Twickenham

When it was over, Michael Jones and Andrew Blowers were joined by Dylan Mika in a huddle beneath the goalposts. It seemed at first that they were using each other's bodies to prop themselves up at the end of an intense, draining afternoon, but after a while it became clear that they were offering some kind of prayer for a safe passage and prosperous journey.

The year has been a long journey for New Zealand rugby, and the players have come through triumphantly. Winners of the tri-nations series, winners for the first time in a series in South Africa and now winners at Twickenham in a game that had official status in all but name. Barbarians or not, these Kiwis do not play friendlies, even in red shirts.

"The waves, and the power, and the pace" — that was the memory of their play that Jack Rowell took home. Indeed, there were times when Christian Cullen and Andrew Mehrtens were speaking a different language to the more prosaic vocabulary England's players learn by rote.

"I am not depressed at all with our performance," the England coach said through gritted teeth. "We came up against a gifted, well-drilled side and did some good business." English rugby, he said more than once, the way people do when they are not quite sure about something, was "heading in the right direction".

It would be churlish to mark England too harshly on a day when they rediscovered some of the qualities they chose not to parade during the five nations' championship this year. In a glittering, purposeful start to the second half, they responded to the loss of a try by making two of their own, and jolly good ones, for Sleightholme and Stimpson.

Temporarily, the Barbarians were rocked, before those piercing incisions in the last ten minutes left England exposed. The fact that Carlos Spencer, a replacement at stand-off half for Mehrtens, was the player with the scalpel, emphasised the riches that are available to New Zealand.

John Hart, the Barbarians coach, hardly needed to say that "Mehrtens had a magnificent attacking game," but, in explaining why he pulled him off in favour of Spencer, he did so anyway. "With the intensity of rugby these days, we need all the back-up we can get." Would that England possessed similar imagination and style at half-back, but this is a country that makes a virtue of the pedestrian and the workaday.

"Ultimately," Hart said, "the game at pace got to England. Our speed and strength showed through today. To win by keeping the pressure on, by using the ball, even when some players were coming up for air, showed a lot of courage."

Hart spoke with lucidity, a quality that appears to be beyond Rowell, whose *obiter dicta* remain puzzling. He talks of a future programme that is more "interactive with the southern hemisphere" (in other words England will play teams like New Zealand more often), and refers to "systematic continuity skills" (swift passing, one supposes). Doing "good business" is a bit odd, too. Does he stand in a corridor before a game, bartering with his opposite number? "I'll swap you Mehrtens for five of our lot."

No doubt Rowell enjoyed a hopped beverage of moderate strength afterwards, before gaining vehicular access to a major highway on the way back to his domestic property. If this is how the England coach addresses the players, then no wonder they cannot spin the ball out quickly enough to hurt the opposition.

It would help if Rowell showed a bit more humility. Whereas Sean Fitzpatrick, who might be thought to have achieved a bit in his time in rugby, wears his accomplishments with a delicacy that is not always apparent on the field, Rowell is afflicted by a clever-dickery that belittles him in the eyes of others. "I know much more than you," he seems to be saying, "and I don't know why I should bother to explain these things to dunces."

In one respect he was right. "I was delighted with the effort of the players," he said, "and we managed to play the football we aspire to play. We were not pleased to lose by such a margin but they played some cracking football." He may find, some time in the new year, that people hold him to those words.

So come on, England, be bold! You have seen at first hand what a little daring can effect. Let your poison be your cure.

Ian Jones, the New Zealand lock forward, leaps high to claim lineout ball against England on Saturday

BASKETBALL

Byrd call fails to inspire Palace

THE next time Alton Byrd, the Crystal Palace coach, threatens to walk out on the squad he may well mean it (Nicholas Harling writes). For, if the Palace players were hoping to persuade Byrd to stay, it took some believing during the team's 81-68 defeat by Chester Jets on Saturday.

The losing margin was 11 points less than ten days earlier, when defeat by Derby Storm so enraged Byrd that he told his players they could find a new coach.

He had second thoughts then, but the ease with which Chester inflicted Palace's eleventh defeat in 13 Budweiser League games will not have helped his peace of mind.

With the strength of Ricardo Leonard (26pts) and Billy Singleton (24), Chester assembled decisive bursts of 14-2 and 11-3 from which Palace, for all the efforts of Richard Scantelbury (27), never recovered.

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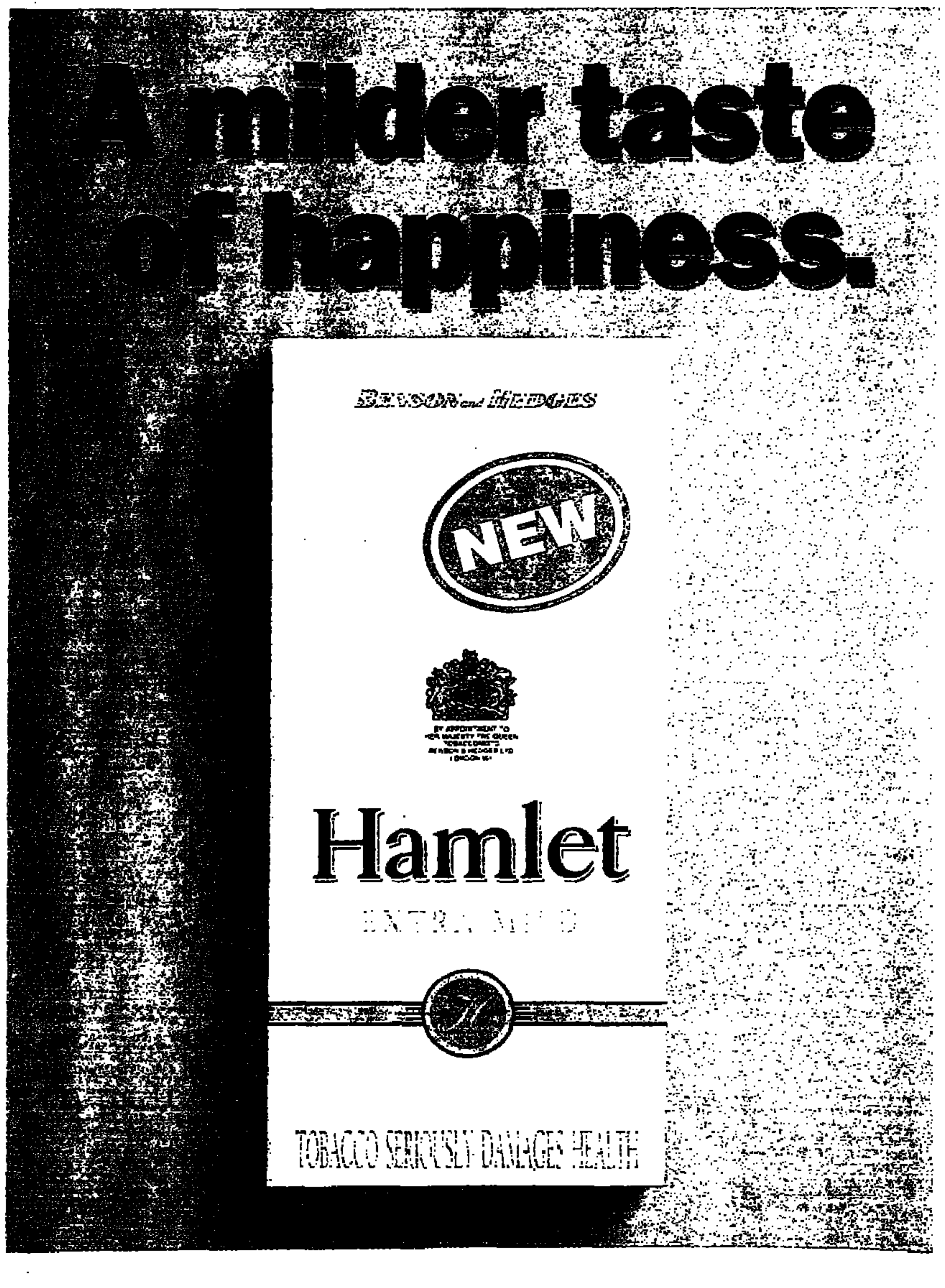
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Casting around for a challenge

Brian Clarke meets a youngster ignoring his means of survival to experience the thrill of the chase

I was just a backcast south of the Arctic Circle, in the far northwest of Hudson Bay. Polar bears — to find them, get close to them, write about them — were strictly the order of the day. Images of life and death were everywhere. Amid them all was the Inuit boy by the river; the Inuit boy cocooned with his fishing rod.

It was extraordinary to see him there. In that wild and beautiful and cruel place, life was lived at existence level, hand, quite literally, to mouth. Much that moves is food or profit. The most direct means of acquiring them — whether by gun or net — is used. And yet there this young lad was, fishing with rod and line for the sheer pleasure it gave him.

I had seen him out in the estuary the night before, helping to set the nets for the great Arctic char. I had seen him that morning helping to bring them in, fish of 15lb and 20lb, slashing at the water and the mesh and the light. I had watched him gut maybe a dozen or so himself, slicing them open and hanging them up to dry. Then he had washed off the gore that had run up his arms and had gone.

It was evening when I saw him on the river, wearing his smart new windcheater, spinning with a rod and a flashing silver spoon. He was utterly absorbed, his horizons limited to the rod and the water and the cast in hand and to whatever was going on in his mind. There were a couple of char on the rocks behind him, small fish but nice fish nonetheless.

I remember thinking that he could have been any boy fishing anywhere, with one difference. Most lads are not spending the rest of their time fishing to live. I was fascinated that someone in this place, especially someone so young, could be interested in a little rod at all. Everyday contact with char as food, and the detached way all living things were treated, had not rendered him immune to the idea of fishing for fun.

We began to talk. My Inuktitut was nil, his English was fractured but we muddled along. Eventually I got to the question in a way he understood: hadn't he seen enough of fish at work to want to see them at play?

"No," he said. "Rod fish different."

Why were rod fish different? He shrugged and smiled. "Rod fish different. I like."

Why didn't he fish in the estuary where the big ones were? "Easy out there. Fish there easy. Like catching in net." But they were big fish, I said. The fish here were little. "Fish there easy. Fish here not so easy."

Aha.

I pressed on, glimpsing a familiar but puzzling light. Was this his favourite place? "No — there." He pointed far inland where the low, treeless hills rolled to infinity and beyond. Why there? I asked. "All kinds of fish. Some big fish, too." But not so easy? "No, not so easy."

The Inuit boy with his catch of char from the Arctic waters of Canada

Well, well. What a turn-up. There are, anglers say, several different stages in a fisherman's life. At first, usually when young, they discovers water and just want to go fishing, but the rituals of casting and float-watching are enough. Then the need to get something — anything — burns. Very soon it is necessary to catch a lot. Then to catch the biggest fish becomes important. Eventually the most sophisticated stage of angling is reached: the desire to deceive the most difficult fish. The final stage, scarcely an angling stage at all, is a kind of nirvana. Then the angler simply wants to "go fishing" again.

'The need to catch big fish had been superseded'

One of the last things I had expected to find in this raw place was an Inuit fishing for pleasure and not for food. Absolutely the last thing I had expected was a lad in whom the need to catch big fish for their own sakes had been superseded by the wish to catch difficult fish. No doubt circumstances had driven him to reach that stage if he wanted to angle at all; but still he had reached, at 11 or 12, a stage of sophistication that anglers at home reached late, if ever.

The next day a group of Americans flew in. They were no sooner down than one of them was in the lodge, asking about the fishing. He had come to see the bears, like everyone else, but he was a fanatical angler. If he could see a bear and catch a few great char — especially on a fly — his holiday would be made.

Two days later, I left. The small aircraft bounced and rattled down the gravelled strip that served as a runway, took off and banked to starboard. I looked down.

To my right I saw the lad in the windcheater, standing on the rock where first I had seen him, casting into the river with his short, light rod. Immediately below I saw someone I knew to be the American, casting into the bay.

It was impossible not to smile. The lad who lived with great fish every day was restricting himself to little fish for the joy of the challenge. The man who said he liked to restrict himself to the fly was heaving a chunk of metal out for all he was worth, wanting still more whoppers to add to the bag already taken.

I did not blame the American. Had I had time I would have been out there beside him, fishing as hard as I could. The novelty of finding big fish, of making hay just once, would have been impossible to pass up — for a while, at least. But the irony was fit for a king.

☐ *Trout etcetera*, a collection of Brian Clarke's essays on fishing which includes several of his pieces for *The Times*, is published by A & C Black (£15.99). His angling column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Adverts bring charities material gain

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

When Alberto Tomba, the triple Olympic skiing champion and Italian national hero, returns to the slopes after his lay-off with a wrist injury, he may be wearing an unfamiliar logo on his ski suit. Tomba has asked the International Ski Federation for permission to carry a logo from Unicef, the charity, along with the slogan, "Children First", when he appears on the World Cup circuit this season. It is hard to see the federation stopping such a charitable act by such a high-profile performer.

Depending on how quickly he recovers, Tomba may not be the first sports figure to carry a charity logo. It is likely that the golfers, Ronan Rafferty and Mark McNulty, or the South Africa rugby union team, or even the struggling Nationwide League first division football side, Queens Park Rangers, could beat him to the punch. They have all been signed up by HelpAd, the group that has already raised £500,000 for the International Red Cross by persuading consumer goods companies to give up space on their products so that it can be sold as advertising for non-competing products.

These, with the England football team's fundraising for orphanages in Moldova, are the most public manifestations of a trend now building a head of steam. Charities have realised that the public perception of the sporting arena has grown mightily in recent years. New research has shown that young people are increasingly looking to sporting heros for moral leadership, giving sportsmen and women an opportunity to be involved in the Band Aid of the 1990s.

HelpAd is about to launch a national advertising campaign to increase awareness of its fundraising work. The concept was launched last year but has really started to take off this autumn. Anyone who has bought a loaf of Hovis since September will have spotted an advert for Anchor butter on the side. That is a HelpAd. Similarly, Coalite smokeless fuel bags carry ads for Zippo lighers, Ecover washing liquid carries an advert for the Co-operative Bank and many other companies are signing up. Interestingly, Anchor's position on the Hovis loaves has only been secured until February, when it will be replaced by Tropicana fruit juices.

There are no plans for footballers to carry actual adverts on their arms, as there simply is not enough space for them to be carried. However, Paul Adams, HelpAd's managing director, says he is signing up leading figures in sport who will carry the HelpAd logo on their shirts in a move aimed at increasing awareness of the scheme. He has already an agreement from Mark McCormack's International Management Group to sign up five of its leading golfers. The South Africa rugby team has given the scheme the green light.

Half a dozen football clubs, led by QPR, and including Newcastle United and Arsenal, have agreed to carry the HelpAd logo on their kits and their scoreboards. There is even talk of a Fomula One team giving a small part of its highly advertised cars over to a HelpAd, a move that could prove the most lucrative of all for the Red Cross.

With the increasing sophistication of sports sponsorship, and its integration into the marketing strategies of companies backing sports, there is a chance for charities to mix good works with good business practices. Companies gain kudos from backing charities and from sponsoring sports. With sporting figures showing a willingness to back charitable works, there is a clear crossover. Whether the Red Cross can come to the aid of an ailing QPR is another matter.

Jason Nissé

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1996-97

LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1) To strengthen London borough councils' powers in relation to the prevention, investigation and enforcement of offences in relation to the claiming of benefits and other offences of fraud and to allow councils to share information and to request information from other bodies;
2) To make further provision in relation to the enforcement of parking controls;
3) To make further provision for increased powers of enforcement by London borough councils in relation to the control of waste on land and in particular powers of enforcement over private streets and alleyways and other open land;
4) To make provision for London borough councils to assist film makers in the making of films including the closure of streets and open spaces, to enable councils to charge for services provided to film makers under the Act and for the use of any of their property and to require notice to be given of filming on certain land;
5) To make provision amending various licensing enactments relating to music and entertainment, theatres, cinemas, night cafés, near beer premises, special treatment premises, sex establishments and door supervisors, to provide that licensing conditions imposed by London boroughs should prevail over the conditions of fire certificates and regulations and to allow London boroughs to charge fees for their costs of enforcing conditions of consent for distribution of free literature;
6) To make provision for the licensing of busking;
7) To make provision for the establishment of business improvement districts and the making of charges for improvements where a requisite majority of businesses vote in favour of a business improvement district being established;
8) To amend the London Regional Transport Act 1984 to enable the existing concessionary fares scheme to continue in circumstances where the reserve free travel scheme would have come into operation and to remove any obligation on London borough councils to replace concession permits, to make provision for the control of nuisance caused by birds, to enable London boroughs to replace the police authority in respect of the control of school pedestrian crossings, to provide that London boroughs are not placed under an obligation to take over maintenance and control of closed churchyards unless certain conditions are complied with beforehand, to make provision relating to the offence of assault against a park keeper, to alter the application of legislation dealing with dangerous and neglected structures, to make provision for service of notices under the Highways Act 1980 on anything obstructing the highway, to alter the application of section 31 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1921 to provide that employees of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority be entitled to compensation for loss of office and to amend the London Local Authorities Act 1996 to allow enforcement of bus lanes provisions to be carried out only against the owner of a vehicle.

On and after the 4th December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £2 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents and at the offices listed in the Schedule hereto.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1997 if the Bill originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street,
Westminster,
London SW1E 6QP
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,
Queen Annes Chambers,
3 Dean Farrar Street,
Westminster,
London SW1H 9JX.
Parliamentary Agents

SCHEDULE

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BN
London Borough of Bexley, Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7LB
London Borough of Brent, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9EZ
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3UH
London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9LP
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3JS
London Borough of Ealing, Information Office, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London, W5 2HL
London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 61, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3XY
London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PW
London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Room 137, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU
London Borough of Haringey, Civic Centre, High Road, London, N22 4LE
London Borough of Harrow, P O Box 2, Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2UH
London Borough of Havering, Havering Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BD
London Borough of Hillingdon, Planning Reception, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW
London Borough of Hounslow, Committee Services Manager, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DN
London Borough of Islington, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU
London Borough of Lambeth, Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1RW
London Borough of Lewisham, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London, SE6 4RU
Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
London Borough of Merton, Reference Library, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX
London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E6 2RP
London Borough of Redbridge, Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1DD
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3BZ
London Borough of Southwark, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UB
London Borough of Sutton, Corporate Legal Group, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1EA
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Waltham Forest, Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF
London Borough of Wandsworth, The Concourse, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1996-97

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for street trading controls within the City of Westminster (hereinafter referred to as "the city") replacing, within the city, the street trading provisions in the London Local Authorities Act 1990; to make provision as respects the designation of licence streets and the specification of articles which may be offered for sale in such streets, the granting and renewal of street trading licences including terms and conditions, the revocation or variation of such licences, the charging of fees and recovery of charges in connection with street trading, removal of receptacles, employment of assistants, temporary licences, nomination of a relative etc. to whom a holder of a street trading licence wishes a licence to be granted in certain circumstances, the giving of notices, proof of resolutions passed and exercise of powers under the Bill, and as to offences relating to street trading and unlicenced street trading.

On and after the 4th December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1.00 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1997 if the Bill originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C T WILSON,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street,
Westminster,
London SW1E 6QP.
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,
Queen Annes Chambers,
3 Dean Farrar Street,
Westminster,
London SW1H 9JX.
Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1996-97

HAILSHAM CATTLE MARKET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by the Hailsham Cattle Market Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") and Carter Commercial Developments Limited for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:-

(1) To relieve the Company of its duty to provide and maintain a market.
(2) To amend provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871 to enable the Company to dispose of the whole or any part of its land or property.
(3) To repeal provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871.

On or after the 4th of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at a price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Claremont at 1 North Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9XY and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Private Bill Office of that House will be 30th January 1997; if it originates in the House of Lords, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in that House will be 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

DYSON BELL MARTIN
1, Dean Farrar Street,
London SW1H 0DY
Parliamentary Agents

LEGAL NOTICES

No 006493 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
In the matter of
WHINNEY MACKAY-LEWIS PLC
And in the matter of
the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petition was on 14 November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the amount of £673,522 standing to the credit of the share premium account of the above-named company and for the confirmation of the cancellation of the amount of £53,907 standing to the capital redemption reserve of the above-named company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 11th day of December 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation for the said cancellations should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

TAYLOR JOYNSON GARRETT

Solicitors for the above-named Company of

Carmelite,
50 Victoria Embankment
Blackfriars
London EC4Y 0DX
Ref: TAM/JCS
Tel: 0171 353 1234

No.005773 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
WESTLB EUROPE (UK) HOLDINGS LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 13th November, 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £100 and Deutsche Marks ("DM") 322,000,000 to £100 and DM 280,167,013 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21st November, 1996.
Dated this 2nd day of December, 1996
Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ
Solicitors for the Company

NORTH CENTRAL CLOTHING LIMITED t/a ANSWERS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LF, on 11th December 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can bne inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 22nd November 1996
T.D. WEIR, Director

World League (Great Britain) Ltd
(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Lee Antony Manning of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF give notice that on 18 November 1996 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions members. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 23 December 1996 to send in their full names, their addresses, and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Lee Anthony Manning of 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1 9DF, the Liquidator, and, personally or by their Solicitor, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Note: this notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated: 25 November 1996
Lee Anthony Manning, Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

ALCATEL BSC LTD
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2152730
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 19 November 1996 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of P O Box 56, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman, P O Box 56, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT by 19 January 1997.
The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 19 February 1997 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 19 January 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
Date 22/11/96
M. FISHMAN
Liquidator

McKENZIE TRANS-CARGO LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on 11 December 1996 at 11.30 a.m. for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
DATED: 20th November, 1996
By order of the Board
Director
S D C KNIGHT

No 005919 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
CIRQUAL PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the twentieth day of November 1996 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company by £10,010,598 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the twenty seventh day of November.
Garrett & Co
Central House
47 St Paul's Street
Leeds
LS1 2TE
Ref: RCWT.MBAV.DK
Tel: 0113 244 1954
Solicitors for the above named Company

NOTICE of resolution for payment of capital
Copper Cable Company Limited
NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act, 1985 that:
1. the above named company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase,
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £1,416,737,
3. the date for the resolution for payment out of capital is 27th November 1996,
4. a statutory declaration of the Directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act, 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, and
5. any creditor of the company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
Aidan Connolly
Company Secretary
Dated: 28th November 1996

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A CASE OF CHAMPAGNE FOR CHRISTMAS

Today *The Times* launches our Twelve Days of Christmas competition with the chance to win not twelve lords a-leaping but one of 12 cases of delicious Lanson Black Label champagne. Each case contains six bottles of this superb non-vintage bubbly worth more than £110.

Tomorrow there will be 11 gift vouchers of £100 each, then 10 mobile phones, 9 hampers of port, 8 bone china gift sets, 7 microwaves, 6 Fortnum hampers, 5 sets of sensational jewellery, 4 personal organisers, 3 nights at Claridges, 2 tickets to Spain and one flying trip to New York. All exciting prizes guaranteed to make your Christmas merrier.

Lanson's non-vintage champagne was christened Black Label in 1937 and it has a unique freshness ideal for those spontaneous moments when only a superb bubbly will do.

The special character of Lanson is a result of a significant technical difference between the way it is produced compared with most other champagnes. Instead of allowing malic acid, a colourless crystalline compound found in grapes and other fruit, to ferment into a weaker lactic acid, Lanson avoids this process so their wines are considered fresher and fruitier and are capable of ageing more gracefully.

HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 3[illegible] before midnight tonight with your answer to the following question:

Who performed Do They Know It's Christmas [illegible]

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply.

Calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES

RACING: CALL FOR SWEEPING CHANGES TO POLICY AND PERSONALITIES

BBC's coverage needs retuning

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

The BBC's cameras were at Newbury to capture Coome Hill's fine Hennessy victory. Photograph: Julian Herbert

A GROUNDSWELL of discontent over BBC television's coverage of racing has emerged among the racecourses where their cameras operate — and prompted high-level demands for sweeping changes in policy and personalities.

The dissatisfaction, which first emerged two months ago at a Racecourse Association (RCA) seminar in Newcastle, led to a secret meeting last week attended by top officials from Aintree, Ascot, Goodwood, Haydock and Newbury — and Sir Paul Fox, the chairman of RCA.

As a result, Sir Paul, a former managing director of BBC television, is to seek a meeting with Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Sport, to tell him about the unhappiness and desire for change. Unless action is taken, BBC could be in danger of losing the right to screen Newbury and Ascot when the contracts come up for renewal shortly.

The criticism of the BBC coverage is two-pronged: the restrictions placed on sponsors of races compared to the way commercial backers of other sports are treated by the corporation's cameras and, far more embarrassingly, the quality of the coverage and those presenting it.

The "staid" programme format "harks back to the Kenneth Wolstenholme era whereas most of the presentation of BBC sport has moved ahead," according to one racecourse insider. "It lacks pizzazz and is stuck in a rut," another said. "Compared to Channel 4 and the new Racing Channel, 'Auntie's' racing coverage looks tired and old. As a result, BBC racecourses are losing out," one official added.

Julian Wilson, the long-standing presenter of BBC television's racing, is compared unfavourably to the likes of John Francome, the former champion jump jockey who works for Channel 4. The racecourse critics say his formal and serious manner can be a turn-off, especially for the casual racing viewer.

"The dissatisfaction with the presentation stems, to a certain extent, from the presenters using the programme as a platform to air their own personal views and we don't feel that is the right place. Julian Wilson's opposition to Sunday racing is well known but he should not use the BBC broadcasts as a platform," one racecourse executive said.

However, the strongest criticism is reserved for Peter Scudamore and Jimmy Lindley, two former jockeys who often help Wilson during broadcasts. Despite their wealth of knowledge, both have difficulty conveying their thoughts succinctly to an audience. "Scu is a lovely fellow but he is not one of the world's natural broadcasters — and never will be."

By contrast, Jonathan Powell, who conducts many of the paddock interviews, and Clare Balding, daughter of Ian Balding, the Kingsclere trainer, are regarded as successes. Given the wealth of new, young talent on programmes such as the Racing Channel, the racecourses would like to see other younger people brought in to boost the BBC team.

The strict controls placed on time and footage devoted to sponsors of races is in marked contrast to sponsors of other sports. For example, at a recent tennis tournament screened from Bournemouth the sponsor's logo was on both sides of the net; rubgy players on Saturday were interviewed with a Save & Prosper sign behind them, while Littlewoods gained considerable exposure during a recent FA Cup draw. "Nothing approaching that kind of exposure for a sponsor is allowed in racing," a racecourse manager said.

The racecourse officials who met last week originally considered approaching Will Wyatt, head of BBC television and a keen racegoer. With Peter O'Sullevan due to retire as BBC's senior commentator next year, his departure would be the ideal time for changing the coverage, they believe.

RICHARD EVANS

NAP: EASTERN RIVER
(3.10 Worcester)
Next best: Forest Ivory
(2.40 Worcester)

Richard Evans was in impressive form on Saturday. He selected Hennessy winner, Coome Hill (11-2), and was also on the mark with his nap, Parsons Boy (13-8), Space Trucker (5-2) and Zabadi (11-4). Julian Muscat's Newcastle winners included Easby Joker (4-1)

Champion return by Large Action

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

LARGE ACTION stormed to the forefront of the Champion Hurdle betting with an impressive comeback victory in the Avonmore Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse yesterday.

Jamie Osborne, completing a big-race double after Coome Hill's Newbury win, guided Large Action, off the track for a year with a suspensory injury, to a six-length defeat of Cockney Lad, which prompted Ladbrokes to cut Large Action to 5-1 second favourite for Cheltenham.

"He's still got the class and is as good as ever," Osborne said after the 2½-mile contest. Large Action will run next in Cheltenham's Bula Hurdle in two week's time, after which Oliver Sherwood will decide whether to train the horse for the Champion Hurdle.

See More Business failed by a length to make it a British double after the Paul Nicholls-trained gelding finished runner-up to Dorans Pride in the Chiquita Drinmore Novices' Chase.

Danoli disappointed the huge crowd by falling at the third fence, which left Dorans Pride and the hard-pulling See More Business to dominate. Despite mistakes, See More Business was still fighting it out on the run-in but couldn't quite match the winner.

Istabraq looks sure to be a leading player in the major novice hurdles after an eye-catching victory in the Avonmore Royal Bond Novice Hurdle, in which the British-trained Lake Kariba finished sixth.

Results, page 32

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

12.40 Melstock Meggie. 1.10 Treasure Again. 1.40 Mr Snaggle. 2.10 Newlands-General. 2.40 Forest Ivory. 3.10 Glenfinn Princess. 3.40 Winnetka Gal.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
1.10 THREE PHILOSOPHERS.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.40 RUSHOCK MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,408: 2m) (14 runners)

101 1 GLORIANA 15 (S) Lady Herries 4-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 85
102 40/0 BECKY'S GIRL 11 R Brotherton 6-10-12 N Mann –
103 00P- CUPRONICKEL 401 D Burchell 4-10-12 D J Burchell –
104 4-00 DERRYBELLE 18 D Williams 5-10-12 M Clarke –
105 FAIRELAINE 88F K Bailey 4-10-12 Mr R Wakley (7) –
106 P0/P FORBURIES 12 (B) A James 7-10-12 B Powell –
107 03- KONVEKTA QUEEN 198 O Sherwood 5-10-12 J Osborne –
108 2/1 MELSTOCK MEGGIE 12 (S) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-12 W Marston –
109 04-5 MOOR HALL LADY 18 N Babbage 5-10-12 A Maguire 93
110 P PERSIAN BUTTERFLY 11 R Strange 4-10-12 D Walsh (3) –
111 0 PERSIAN SUNSET 12 Miss J Bower 4-10-12 D Bridgwater –
112 0/30 QUAKER WALTZ 16 J Tuck 6-10-12 S McNeill [illegible]
113 SLIPPERY FIN 128F W Turner 4-10-12 N Willmington (7) –
114 F32- STEAMBURD 219P J Mullins 5-10-12 S Curran –

9-4 Gloriana, 4-1 Konvekta Queen, Melstock Meggie, 6-1 Moor Hall Lady, 8-1 others

1.10 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,605: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

201 STAY LUCKY N Henderson 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald –
202 010- BE BRAVE 226 (S) T Etherington 6-10-12 N Mann –
203 .0-F BONNIFER 12 M Wilkinson 7-10-12 W Marston –
204 BREATH OF SCANDAL O Sherwood 5-10-12 J Osborne –
205 1PP- CARACOL 223 (G,S) J Neville 7-10-12 D Bridgwater –
206 DOMAINE DE PRON 170F Mrs L Taylor 5-10-12 M Sharratt –
207 304- EASY BREEZY 238 C Mann 6-10-12 J Railton –
208 125- IL BAMBINO 245 (G,S) H Manners 8-10-12 A Dowling (7) –
209 3-R2 KEY TO MOYADE 18 M Wilkinson 6-10-12 I Lawrence 69
210 15-U MACGEORGE 19 (S) R Lee 6-10-12 C Llewellyn –
211 30-3 PHARANEAR 23 (BF,F,G,S) D Nicholson 6-10-12 A Maguire 75
212 2P2- THE BOOLEY HOUSE 278 V Soane 6-10-12 B Powell 87
213 6-30 THE REVEREND BERT 13 G Balding 6-10-12 B Fenton –
214 FF0- THREE PHILOSOPHERS 226 (G,S) T Forster 7-10-12 S Wynne [illegible]
215 03R-1 TIBBS INN 18 A Barrow 7-10-12 Mr R Thornton (5) –
216 01-5 TREASURE AGAIN 30 (G,S) Mrs M Jones 7-10-12 Derek Byrne –
217 R1-F TWO JOHN'S 2 (G) P Nicholls 7-10-12 G Bradley –
218 40-P DUNNICKS COUNTRY 23 F Tucker 6-10-7 G Upton –

9-2 Breath Of Scandal, 6-1 Pharanear, 7-1 Two John's, Key To Moyade, 8-1 others

1.40 RIVER SEVERN HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,120: 2m 4f) (9)

301 06-F FAST THOUGHTS 13 (C,F,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-10 Sophie Mitchell (5) –
302 00P- BIG STRAND 209 (G,S) M Pipe 7-11-8 D Walsh (3) 95
303 -035 REAGANESQUE 23 (D,G) P Murphy 4-11-6 R Farrant 94
304 2R6- MANOLETE 212 (G,S) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 Derek Byrne 98
305 200- MAJOR NOVA 213 (G,S) N Smith 7-11-1 J Ryan [illegible]
306 1-11 GLISTENING DAWN 14 (B,D,F,S) T Keddy 5-10-12 S McNeill 93
307 3P1/ NUNS CONE 623 (D,F,S) R Peacock 8-10-8 G Hogan (3) –
308 1/1- TRECENTO 402 (F,G) J Mackie 5-10-7 W Marston 92
309 2330 MR SNAGGLE 33 (G,S) S Earle 7-10-6 A Maguire 97

7-2 Manolete, 4-1 Glistening Dawn, 5-1 Nuns Cone, Big Strand, 7-1 others

2.10 KEMPSEY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,468: 2m) (7)

401 4331 THUMBS UP 12 (D,F,G,S) G McCourt 10-12-0 D Fortt 91
402 RANDOM ASSAULT D Nicholson 7-12-0 A Maguire –
403 6-11 KONVEKTA KING 17 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 8-11-12 J Osborne 92
404 413- MISTER ODDY 213 (CD,G,S) J King 10-11-7 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
405 1221 NEWLANDS-GENERAL 15 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-2 G Bradley 91
406 355- SEEK THE FAITH 238 (D,S) M Sheppard 7-10-5 B Powell 90
407 5-F KYTTON CASTLE 15 (D,G,S) R Dickin 9-10-0 R Bellamy 90

5-2 Konvekta King, 3-1 Thumbs Up, 5-1 Newlands-General, 8-1 others

2.40 SPETCHLEY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,915: 2m 4f) (22)

501 20-1 FOREST IVORY 9 (G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-3 A Maguire 96
502 00-P ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 12 F Lloyd 5-10-10 D Walsh (3) –
503 /30- AUT EVEN 226 (G) T Forster 6-10-10 S Wynne 92
504 00P- CAREYSVILLE 290 T George 5-10-10 Mr R Thornton (5) 66
505 332- CAST OF THOUSANDS 198 C Egerton 5-10-10 J Osborne –
506 1-2 DANCETILLYOUDROP 15 (G) P Nicholls 5-10-10 M A Fitzgerald 93
507 11/2 DANTES CAVALIER 14 (BF,F,S) D Gandolfo 6-10-10 D Fortt (3) 89
508 05-2 DENHAM HILL 19 C Mann 5-10-10 J Railton 91
509 00-F DERRING JACK 12 A Carroll 5-10-10 T Murphy –
510 .0/0 DERRYS PREROGATIVE 12 A Carroll 5-10-10 D Bridgwater –
511 -00-0 DON'T MIND IF I DO 11 P Webber 5-10-10 Mr P Scott –
512 6 GREENFIELD GEORGE 13 P Hobbs 5-10-10 D J Kavanagh (5) –
513 56-P GUTTERIDGE 32 T Keddy 6-10-10 S McNeill [illegible]
514 02-P KARICLEIGH MAN 26 P Hobbs 6-10-10 G Bradley –
515 0 LITTLE EARN 14 Miss H Knight 6-10-10 Mr A Wintle (7) –
516 LOUSHDOO R Lee 8-10-10 G Hogan (3) –
517 4-04 RAGDON 20 Mrs A Heard 5-10-10 G Upton –
518 00-0 RATHKEAL 19 M Heaton-Ellis 5-10-10 D Gallagher –
519 13-4 SPRING DOUBLE 28 (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-10 C Llewellyn 80
520 HANAFORD POINT Mrs J Pitman 7-10-5 W Marston –
521 F0-0 MISS MYLETTE 18 D Wintle 5-10-5 T Jenks –
522 5 WEST BAY BREEZE 23 R Buckler 4-10-5 B Powell –

5-2 Denham Hill, 3-1 Forest Ivory, 7-1 Dantes Cavalier, 8-1 Spring Double, Dancetillyoudrop, 14-1 Hanaford Point, 16-1 Cast Of Thousands, 25-1 others.

3.10 MALVERN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,910: 2m 7f 110yd) (9)

601 -4F2 SORBIERE 15 (B,F) N Henderson 9-12-0 M A Fitzgerald 98
602 P0-1 LORD OF THE WEST 20 (F,G,S) J J O'Neill 7-12-0 A Maguire 93
603 U315 GLENFINN PRINCESS 37 (CD,BF,F,S) Mrs M Jones 8-11-12 Derek Byrne 88
604 314/ COASTING 788 (G,S) G Balding 10-11-3 J Railton –
605 13-1 EASTERN RIVER 11 (G,S) T Forster 10-10-10 S Wynne 98
606 6-25 TITAN EMPRESS 14 (V,D,BF,G,S) S Mellor 7-10-10 N Mann [illegible]
607 4P-3 LEINTHALL PRINCESS 31 (S) J Needham 10-10-10 B Fenton 93
608 P-0P BEAUFAN 31 (F,G,S) B Cambidge 9-10-8 Gary Lyons 85
609 /P4- HANGOVER 352 (G,S) R Lee 10-10-5 G Hogan (3) 84

6-4 Lord Of The West, 3-1 Eastern River, 8-1 Glenfinn Princess, Titan Empress, 10-1 Coasting, Sorbiere, Leinthall Princess, 14-1 others

3.40 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,448: 2m) (20)

1 BILLINGSGATE D Chesney 4-11-5 N Willmington (7) –
2 6 BURFORDS FOR SCRAP 33 R Dickin 4-11-5 Mr F Hutsby (7) –
3 6- CLASSIC CHAT 194 J Spearing 4-11-5 Miss C Spearing (7) –
4 00- DARK ORCHARD 278 W Muir 5-11-5 A Bates (5) –
5 5 IRISH DELIGHT 156 R Curtis 4-11-5 D Walsh (3) –
6 NICANJON J Allen 5-11-5 X Aizpuru (7) –
7 OTAGO HEIGHTS Mrs J Pitman 4-11-5 G Hogan (3) –
8 0/0 PRIVATE MEMORIES 12 A Carroll 6-11-5 Miss C Dyson –
9 SOCIAL INSECURITY S Gollings 5-11-5 D J Kavanagh (5) –
10 P- SPIRIT OF SUCCESS 218P N Lampard 6-11-5 Mr A Kinane –
11 0/0- SUPREME CRUSADER 268 W M-Coles 5-11-5 D Fortt (3) –
12 6 TAIN TON 26 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-5 M Keighley (7) –
13 000- ALRIGHT GUVNOR 212 N Smith 6-11-0 G E Smith (5) –
14 30-3 ARDRINA 21 F Murphy 5-11-0 Mr R Thornton (5) –
15 BIT 'O' SUNSHINE C Smith 5-11-0 B Clarke (7) –
16 4 DAYDREAM BELIEVER 20 M Salaman 4-11-0 R Massey (3) –
17 43 KOSHEEN 12 Miss H Knight 5-11-0 Mr A Wintle (7) –
18 5- LANDA'S COUNSEL 289 D Gandolfo 5-11-0 Sophie Mitchell (5) –
19 0 SILVER QUILL 12 G Balding 5-11-0 R Arnold –
20 6 WINNETKA GAL 12 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 L Suthern (7) –

7-2 Landa's Counsel, 4-1 Kosheen, 6-1 Otago Heights, Winnetka Gal, 8-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WORCESTER: Trainers: O Sherwood, 18 winners from 53 runners, 34.0%; Miss H Knight, 12 from 42, 28.6%; C Mann, 7 from 25, 28.0%; M Pipe, 32 from 125, 25.6%; P Nicholls, 13 from 53, 24.5%; K Bailey, 24 from 102, 23.5%. Jockeys: Mr R Thornton, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; J Osborne, 28 from 101, 27.7%; N Mann, 7 from 30, 23.3%; G Bradley, 10 from 55, 18.2%; D Bridgwater, 23 from 144, 16.0%; C Llewellyn, 20 from 126, 15.9%.

WINCANTON: Trainers: N Graham, 3 winners from 3 runners, 100.0%; O Sherwood, 11 from 33, 33.3%; M Pipe, 35 from 130, 26.9%; A Turnell, 7 from 39, 17.9%; K Bailey, 10 from 58, 17.2%; Mrs N Dutfield, 4 from 24, 16.7%. Jockeys: O Burrows, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; P Hide, 6 from 34, 17.6%; A P McCoy, 11 from 66, 16.7%; J R Kavanagh, 5 from 31, 16.1%; T Dascombe, 6 from 45, 13.3%; W McFarland, 3 from 26, 11.5%

Coome Hill brings relief from Budget hangover

After the Budget "nightmare", a Hennessy fairytale. The heartwarming victory of Coome Hill at Newbury on Saturday provided a welcome break from the collective madness which has seized many within racing since the Chancellor sat down on Tuesday.

The reaction to Kenneth Clarke's non-announcement has been close to hysterical and underlines, yet again, one of the sport's great failings. Contrary to the popular belief expressed regularly in watering holes around Newmarket, Lambourn and Middleham, the world does not revolve around racing. Far from it.

Yes, racing's financial return from the betting it generates is poor, even unfair. Yes, the failure to gain a second successive cut in betting duty to help correct the imbalance was disappointing. But was it really surprising, given the demands posed by the health service, schools *et al* in the run-up to a general election?

By chance, within minutes of Clarke giving his Budget, Tattersalls faxed a press release proudly announcing the Newmarket-based auctioneers had established a European record for annual yearling turnover, with a figure of 49,048,250 guineas. Add on to that buoyant bookmaker profits and it is easy to understand why the Chancellor could resist diverting much-needed tax revenue to the punter — let alone racing.

Despite the ferocious onslaught on Lord Wakeham and Tristram Ricketts, there is no hint within Westminster or Whitehall that racing's case for a betting duty cut was badly prepared. If anything, the opposite is the case. The decision by the bookmakers to offer their own submission, which contradicted prize-money pleas, certainly did not help — and has led to inevitable calls for racing to fight its own corner and not tie itself so closely to the needs of punters or the betting industry.

RICHARD EVANS

Racing Commentary

Unfortunately for racing, there is a danger it will be damned if it adopts such an isolationist policy — and damned if it doesn't. If racing and the betting industry go their separate ways, the disunity will ruin any chances of Government help in the future. However, as John Brown of William Hill has made clear, racing's concerns are not bookmakers' concerns — especially prize-money.

So what should be done? In the short term, racing can help itself by improving the appalling fixture list. The British Horseracing Board (BHB) has tried to satisfy the racecourses, owners, punters and bookmakers — and ended up annoying everybody. An improved fixture list offers scope for agreement with the big bookmakers and increased levy. Secondly, a close look is required at the allocation of prize-money to racecourses, with incentives and competition between tracks.

By demonstrating it is doing everything possible to help itself, racing is more likely to gain a sympathetic hearing from Government as it tackles what should be the long-term objective — a total overhaul of the way racing is financed.

The levy system, a leftover from the 1960s which helps to keep racing in a financial straitjacket, is not the way to fund the sport in the technology-driven 21st Century. If the jolt provided by the Budget stirs the BHB and racing into finding a satisfactory successor to the levy, Clarke will have done the sport a considerable favour.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

1.20 Kilmington. 1.50 Badastan. 2.20 INDIRA (nap). 2.50 Five To Seven. 3.20 Second Call. 3.50 Silver Standard.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES SIS

1.20 CERNE ABBAS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,670: 2m 6f) (17 runners)

1 2-41 KILMINGTON 11 (CD,G) J Gifford 7-11-5 P Hide
2 63-2 ANOTHER COCKPIT 19 P Hobbs 4-10-12 A P McCoy
3 FF-P CAMINO 9 (B) R Smith 9-10-12 C Maude
4 2342 COPPER COIL 18 W Turner 6-10-12 J Power (7)
5 522- DINGLE WOOD 202 N Lampard 6-10-12 T Dascombe (3)
6 R50- LAUREN'S TREASURE 287 Mrs S Williams 5-10-12 K Gaule (3)
7 0-36 MR STRONG GALE 15 P Nicholls 5-10-12 O Burrows (7)
8 0 OUISTI 15 P Hedger 6-10-12 M Richards
9 P0P- RAMBLING ON 273 C Drewe 6-10-12 P Henley (3)
10 0 RED BRONZE 11 C Barwell 5-10-12 J R Kavanagh
11 -064 WARRIO 14 J Bosley 6-10-12 M Bosley
12 P-P0 YOUNG TYCOON 11 A J Wilson 5-10-12 L Harvey
13 4524 GALATASORI JANE 18 P Nicholls 6-10-7 L Cummins (7)
14 0 PRUSSIAN EAGLE 12 M Bradstock 4-10-7 P Holley
15 33-4 QUINAG 14 K Bailey 5-10-7 J A McCarthy
16 0-52 SLIPMATIC 16 A Turnell 7-10-7 C Rae (7)
17 STORMHILL HARPIE J Batchelor 5-10-7 S Burrough

11-4 Slipmatic, 3-1 Kilmington, 7-1 Copper Coil, Another Cockpit, 8-1 others.

1.50 SOMERSET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,895: 3m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 223- BADASTAN 424 (B,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-11-11 G Tormey
2 145- PRICE'S HILL 233 (S) K Bailey 9-11-3 W Walsh (5)
3 1233 RAINBOW CASTLE 11 (F,G) P Nicholls 9-11-6 O Burrows (3)
4 15-3 CREDON 14 (D,S) S Woodman 8-11-4 P Henley

6-4 Rainbow Castle, 9-4 Credon, 5-2 Badastan, 6-1 Price's Hill.

☐ Heron Island (John Reid) gave his trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, an eighth success in France this year when winning the listed Prix Tantieme (1m 6f) at Saint-Cloud on Saturday.

2.20 CHARD JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,373: 2m) (10)

1 1212 ALWAYS HAPPY 15 (D,F,G) M Pipe 11-7 A P McCoy
2 5 STONECUTTER 16 (V) M Channon 11-6 R Hughes
3 111 COINTOSSER 46 (CD,F) R Frost 11-4 DOUBTFUL
4 MISS PRAVDA 7F B Llewellyn 10-12 Mr J L Llewellyn
5 142 SIBERIAN MYSTIC 12 (D,G) P Murphy 10-12 W McFarland
6 15 STONE ISLAND 4 (B,S) P Hobbs 10-11 G Tormey (3)
7 025 LADY MAGNUM 12 J Neville 10-9 P Hide
8 2PP FOUR WEDDINGS 14 (V) M Pipe 10-5 C Maude
9 405 PROVE THE POINT 14 Mrs P Dutfield 10-3 P Holley
10 3100 INDIRA 9 (D,G) C Popham 10-0 T Dascombe (3)

6-4 Always Happy, 5-2 Siberian Mystic, 4-1 Stonecutter, 8-1 Lady Magnum, 10-1 Stone Island, Prove The Point, 14-1 others

2.50 NIGHTINGALE SINGS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,198: 2m 5f) (5)

1 12F- FIVE TO SEVEN 219 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-10 A P McCoy
2 0-51 TOO PLUSH 16 (D,F,G,S) A Turnell 7-11-7 L Harvey
3 -631 THE CAUMRUE 9 (G,S) G Balding 8-11-6 B Clifford
4 2FP- MAESTRO PAUL 233 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 10-10-11 P Hide
5 211- THE MINE CAPTAIN 198 (G) O Sherwood 9-10-10 J McCarthy

2-1 The Caumrue, 3-1 Too Plush, Five To Seven, 6-1 The Mine Captain, Maestro Paul

3.20 ORCHARD FM MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (£2,856: 2m) (6)

1 6-61 KOO'S PROMISE 11 (CD,G) C Popham 5-11-7 T Dascombe (3)
2 2-14 SECOND CALL 11 (D,BF,F,G,S) T Forster 7-11-7 A P McCoy
3 01F- JOSIFINA 185 (F,S) A Foster 5-11-0 C Maude
4 213- MISTRESS ROSIE 198P (F,S) M Hill 9-11-0 S Fox
5 0PB- RELKOWEN 238 (G) A Turnell 6-11-0 M Richards
6 24P3 UP THE TEMPO 11 P Farrell 7-11-0 J R Kavanagh

5-4 Second Call, 5-2 Josifina, 7-2 Koo's Promise, 10-1 Relkowen, 16-1 others

3.50 MANSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,427: 2m 6f) (6)

1 U221 MORSTOCK 11 (C,G) R Hodges 6-12-0 T Dascombe (3)
2 31-5 CAVINA 57 (CD,F,S) N Graham 6-11-12 P Hide
3 23-5 WELSHMAN 12 (F,G,S) M Blanshard 10-11-8 J R Kavanagh
4 1-32 SILVER STANDARD 18 (B,D,G,S) T Forster 6-11-6 C Maude
5 3331 GENERAL MOUKTAR 24 (D,G) M Pipe 6-11-0 A P McCoy
6 -4P6 MU-TADIL 18 R Baker 4-10-0 N T Egan (7)

2-1 Morstock, 3-1 General Mouktar, Silver Standard, 6-1 Cavina, 7-1 others.

Space Trucker provides first Irish victory

SPACE TRUCKER, trained by Jessica Harrington, became the first Irish-trained winner of the £22,000 Newcastle Building Society Fighting Fifth Hurdle on Saturday.

The grade two contest lost much of its interest with the late withdrawal of the former champion hurdler, Alderbrook. Kim Bailey's decided not to risk the 1995 champion on ground that was too fast. But there was still a stirring finish as Space Trucker survived a blunder at the last to beat Castle Sweep and Dato Star.

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WINCANTON: 1.20 Camino. 2.20 Stone Island, Four Weddings, Stonecutter. WORCESTER: 12.40 Forburies.

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JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	88	49	42	1	-6.42
K Bailey	36	24	18	4	+27.65
P Hobbs	33	21	23	3	-39.84
D Nicholson	31	15	10	1	+8.07
P Nicholls	29	22	14	10	-10.86
Mrs M Reveley	26	19	14	8	+12.16
M Hammond	26	26	17	9	-27.04

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	104	69	40	1	+4.58
R Johnson	47	21	30	11	+34.20
D Bridgwater	46	27	23	5	+24.95
R Dunwoody	43	34	25	2	-24.89
A Maguire	41	40	38	4	-75.29
J Osborne	40	35	25	2	+11.31
P Niven	27	16	18	1	+9.06

KELSO

THUNDERER

12.30 Duraid
1.00 Del Piero
1.30 Crown Equerry
2.00 Mr Knitwit
2.30 Whaat Fettle
3.00 Nicholas Plant
3.30 Kasirama

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.30 JOHN HOGG NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,502: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

1 P-0P BARIK 20 (G Armstrong) B Mactaggart 6-10-12 G Lee (3) –
2 6- CALDER KING 27F (D Clarkson) J Eyre 5-10-12 B Storey –
3 1-1112 DURAID 30 (BF,F,G) (A Saddes) D Smith 4-10-12 R Guest 75
4 00- GREEK GOLD 21F (Mrs A Harker) D Barker 7-10-12 P Niven –
5 02240-4 IN GOOD FAITH 25F (R Dawson) J Quinn 4-10-12 M Dwyer [illegible]
6 50- KIERCHEM 191 (Mrs M Hunter) C Grant 5-10-12 J Callaghan 66
7 411-4 KING PIN 23 (BF,G) (Exors of J Hinchliffe) P Beaumont 4-10-12 R Supple 77
8 MISTER ROSS (G Brown) H Johnson 6-10-12 N Williamson –
9 MIZAAL 61F (S Aitken) R Allan 5-10-12 B Harding –
10 0/ OBVIOUS RISK 644 (Mrs E Woodhead) E Caine 5-10-12 Mr P Murray –
11 POLITICAL BILL (W Middleton) J Charlton 5-10-12 K Johnson –
12 0 ROYAL PALM 24 (J Hepburn) V Thompson 4-10-12 Mr M Thompson –
13 SHINEROLLA 192F (R Anderson Green) C Parker 4-10-12 D Parker –
14 005-3 BILL'S PRIDE 17 (Exors of W McKinlay) P Monteith 5-10-7 A Dobbin 71
15 JALMAID 117F (R Jackson) H Alexander 4-10-7 R McGrath (5) –

BETTING: 9-4 In Good Faith, 6-1 Duraid, 7-1 Shinerolla, 8-1 King Pin, Mister Ross, 10-1 Barik, Bill's Pride, 14-1 others

1995: COLONEL IN CHIEF 5-11-0 P Carberry (11-2) F Murphy 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

BARIK 32l 7th to Stylish Interval in selling hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). DURAID 7l 2nd to Ela Mata in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5½f, good). IN GOOD FAITH 12½l 4th of 14 to Nordic Breeze in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). KING PIN 11¼l 4th to B The One in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm).
Selection: DURAID

1.00 JOHN HOGG NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,489: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

1 001-51 DEL PIERO 19 (CD,G) (F Hanson) M Hammond 5-11-5 R Garritty 93
2 2 DANA POINT 14 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 4-10-12 R Guest 83
3 0 DESERT DEVIL 36 (N Park) G Richards 4-10-12 A Dobbin –
4 540F4/5- DOUBLING DICE 532F (R Allan) R Allan 5-10-12 S Melrose (7) –
5 3-P DRAKEWRATH 178 (G) (R Bartlett) R Bartlett 6-10-12 D Parker –
6 30 DR EDGAR 37 (A Watson) M Dods 4-10-12 R Supple 74
7 0-F JARROW 17 (H Gething) Mrs A Naughton 5-10-12 M Foster –
8 0/ MALTA MAN 609 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 6-10-12 A S Smith –
9 0/00-3 NICK ROSS 23 (R Brewis) R Brewis 5-10-12 K Johnson 80
10 6 PERCY PARROT 17 (Mrs L Whillans) A Whillans 4-10-12 B Harding –
11 00 REGAL DOMAIN 19 (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 5-10-12 D Bentley –
12 5 SUNNY LEITH 17 (G Cowan) P Monteith 5-10-12 G Cahill (3) 75
13 00 SUPER GUY 44 (Miss L Wood) J Barclay 4-10-12 B Storey –
14 55/0- GLINT OF AYR 266 (R Goldie) R Goldie 6-10-7 J Callaghan –
15 220-526 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 9 (P Cronin) J Parkes 6-10-7 P Niven [illegible]

BETTING: 4-1 Del Piero, 9-2 Dana Point, 7-1 Kilnamartyra Girl, 8-1 Nick Ross, 10-1 Sunny Leith, Desert Devil, 12-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

DEL PIERO beat KILNAMARTYRA GIRL (5lb better off) neck in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). DANA POINT 16l 2nd to Daraydan in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). DESERT DEVIL 21l 7th to Duraid in NH Flat race at Wetherby (2m, good). DR EDGAR 11½l 3rd to Mirroaic in novice hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good to firm). NICK ROSS 6¾l 3rd of 10 to B The One in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm).
Selection: DANA POINT

1.30 JACK BRITTON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£4,642: 3m 1f) (13 runners)

1 4-11102 TIGHTER BUDGET 19 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Sayer) Mrs D Sayer 9-12-1 M Moloney 81
2 236-260 ARISTODEMUS 31 (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 7-11-0 D Bentley –
3 40P/63-0 BOSWORTH FIELD 25 (Mrs S Horner-Harker) Mrs S Horner-Harker 8-11-0 R Guest 52
4 021- CELTIC GIANT 227 (S) (R Gilbert) L Lungo 6-11-0 M Dwyer –
5 10234-P CROWN EQUERRY 16 (BF,G) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-0 B Harding –
6 3020/6-3 KINGS SERMON 16 (Mrs P Hartley) P Beaumont 7-11-0 R Supple 75
7 00/051-F MONKSAAN 5 (G) (Shirebrook Park) M Hammond 7-11-0 Mr C Bonner (3) –
8 P350-14 SEEKING GOLD 19 (CD,F) (Gilry) J Barclay 7-11-0 B Storey 75
9 3- SLIDEOFHILL 278 (Miss J Bellamy) J J O'Neill 7-11-0 P Niven 76
10 5P05P-6 STRONGALONG 19 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 6-11-0 A S Smith 60
11 1F2343 TOUGH TEST 19 (F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-0 G Cahill (3) 78
12 460-2UU WINTER BELLE 114 (BF,G,S) (Mrs M Bird) H Johnson 8-11-0 N Williamson [illegible]
13 3 MISS COLETTE 21 (G) (R Drysdale) Mrs D Thomson 8-10-9 L O'Hara –

BETTING: 7-2 Tighter Budget, 4-1 Kings Sermon, 5-1 Tough Test, 7-1 Winter Belle, 8-1 Celtic Giant, Seeking Gold, 10-1 Slideofhill, 12-1 others.

1995: ROCKET RUN 7-11-2 A Thornton (7-1) Miss L Russell 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

TIGHTER BUDGET 1½l 2nd of 6 to Trickle Lad in novice chase over course and distance (good) with TOUGH TEST (3lb worse off) short-head 3rd. ARISTODEMUS best effort this term 3l 2nd of 10 to Irish Fountain in handicap chase at Ballinrobe (3m 4f, good). CELTIC GIANT beat Spaceage Gold neck in 8-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good to soft). CROWN EQUERRY 8l 4th of 10 to Him Of Praise in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. MONKSAAN beat Real Taoiseach neck in 22-runner National Hunt Flat race at Thurles (2m, yielding to soft) on penultimate start. SEEKING GOLD beat Mr Reiner 9l in 8-runner novice handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm). WINTER BELLE best effort this term short-head 2nd of 16 to Moussahim in conditions chase at Tralee (2m, yielding).
Selection: CROWN EQUERRY

2.00 J RUTHERFORD EARLSTON LTD HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,272: 2m 2f) (3 runners)

1 301344- COQUI LANE 215 (CD,G,S) (J Dun) J Dun 9-12-0 T Reed [illegible]
2 12032/4 MR KNITWIT 16 (G) (Coupar Capital Racing) P Monteith 9-11-6 A Dobbin 92
3 05020-2 STASH THE CASH 19 (CD,G,S) (G Shiel) M Hammond 5-10-6 R Garritty 93

BETTING: Evens Stash The Cash, 2-1 Mr Knitwit, 9-4 Coqui Lane.

1995: JYMJAM JOHNNY 6-10-5 M Dwyer (11-2) J J O'Neill 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

COQUI LANE 4l 4th of 6 to Glenugie in handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, soft). MR KNITWIT 10½l 4th to Burnt Imp in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good). STASH THE CASH ½l 2nd to Adamatic in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good).
Selection: COQUI LANE

2.30 JOHN HINCHLIFFE MEMORIAL CHAMPION CHASE (Handicap: £10,172: 3m 4f) (8 runners)

1 25/P11-P WHAAT FETTLE 10 (CD,F,G,S) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 11-11-7 A Dobbin 92
2 1011F-5 SEVEN TOWERS 21 (G,S) (Mrs E Murray) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-6 P Niven [illegible]
3 21-1131 MONY-SKIP 10 (F,G) (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 7-10-5 R Guest 90
4 3282-35 PIMS GUNNER 36 (C,F,G,S) (A Chappell) M Hammond 8-10-0 B Harding 98
5 40244-3 KILCOLGAN 23 (C,F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-0 A S Smith 89
6 1441-12 ALY DALEY 20 (F,G,S) (M Tobin) H Johnson 8-10-0 N Williamson 91
7 24311-2 WESTWELL BOY 25 (F,G) (D Yeadon) P Beaumont 10-10-0 R Supple 87
8 515-0P0 GALA WATER 5 (F,S) (Mrs T Dun) T Dun 10-10-0 B Storey 70

BETTING: 9-4 Whaat Fettle, 7-2 Mony-Skip, 4-1 Aly Daley, 9-2 Seven Towers, 6-1 Pims Gunner, 7-1 Kilcolgan, 12-1 others

1995: JODAMI 10-11-10 M Dwyer (2-9 fav) P Beaumont 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHAAT FETTLE beat Emerald Storm neck in 9-runner handicap chase here (2m 6f 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
SEVEN TOWERS about 19½l 5th of 10 to Parsons Boy in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good). MONY-SKIP beat Lucky Dollar 7l in 4-runner novice handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). KILCOLGAN 1¾l and neck 3rd of 8 to Into The Red in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m 6f, good to firm). ALY DALEY 3½l 2nd of 8 to Ivy House in handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good). WESTWELL BOY 3½l 2nd of 10 to Gridiron Bar in handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good).
Selection: WHAAT FETTLE (nap)

3.00 E SCARTH & SON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,820: 2m 6f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 4F1422 TALLYWAGGER 23 (F,G) (Mrs S Moore) G Moore 9-11-10 J Callaghan 97
2 F2-3P11 LOCHNAGRAIN 17 (F,G,S) (Lightbody Of Hamilton) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-9 P Niven 97
3 4401PP- TRUMP 215 (G,S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-11-6 D Parker 98
4 /10/0P-5 DIG DEEPER 17 (CD,G,S) (I Dalgleish) R Allan 9-10-5 N Williamson –
5 1-26133 NICHOLAS PLANT 16 (CD,F,S) (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 7-10-3 G Lee (3) 96
6 264/621 TRAP DANCER 17 (G) (A Dawson) P Monteith 8-10-0 A Dobbin [illegible]
7 0104-54 D'ARBLAY STREET 20 (B,BF,G,S) (Green For Luck) W Kemp 7-10-0 S McDougall 93

Long handicap: Trap Dancer 9-9, D'Arblay Street 9-4

BETTING: 7-4 Lochnagrain, 11-4 Tallywagger, 5-1 Trap Dancer, 6-1 Nicholas Plant, 8-1 Trump, 14-1 Dig Deeper, 16-1 D'Arblay Street.

1995: VILLAGE REINDEER 8-11-3 L Wyer (13-2) P Calver 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

TALLYWAGGER 5l 2nd to Jocks Cross in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to firm). LOCHNAGRAIN beat Huso short-head in handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good). NICHOLAS PLANT best effort beat Jonaem 5l in handicap hurdle over course and distance (firm). TRAP DANCER beat Bold Fountain 7l in novice hurdle at Ayr (3m good). D'ARBLAY STREET 13½l 4th to Top Skipper in selling hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good).
Selection: LOCHNAGRAIN

3.30 OSWALD HUGHES MAIDEN HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,346: 2m 6f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 350-P56 ALICHARGER 18 (A Fletcher) P Monteith 6-11-10 R Hale (5) –
2 P- BLACK ICE 212 (T Tate) T Tate 5-11-10 W Burnell (7) –
3 0P545-3 CASH BOX 19 (T Watson) T Carr 8-11-10 C Mulhall (7) [illegible]
4 2-5 CHEATER 21 (G Brown) H Johnson 5-11-10 Miss P Jones (5) –
5 2- GRASHBALLOO 191 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 5-11-10 A Parker (7) 98
6 4FF-2 KASIRAMA 19 (B & K Associates) M Hammond 5-11-10 C Bonner (3) 96
7 LA RIVIERA (J Hogg) J Charlton 4-11-10 N Wilson (5) –
8 6304/ LYFORD CAY 275P (R Bewley) J Bewley 6-11-10 D Swindlehurst (7) –
9 /006/ MARKS REFRAIN 603P (G) (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 12-11-10 P Murray (7) –
10 006- PHARMISTICE 231 (J Halliday) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-10 C Wilson (7) –
11 006-3 THE NEXT WALTZ 24 (Mrs M Royds) L Lungo 5-11-10 M H Naughton (5) 98
12 /PP/20/ WOODSTOCK LODGE 686 (V Thompson) V Thompson 6-11-10 M Thompson (3) –
13 00/54PP- MORE CHAMPAGNE 222 (Tillyne Poppers) Mrs D Thomson 6-11-5 Miss P Robson (5) 85
14 360 NENAGH GUNNER 25 (Mrs G Barnes) J Quinn 6-11-5 Mr S Swiers 71

BETTING: 2-1 Kasirama, 7-2 Cash Box, 5-1 Grashballoo, 6-1 The Next Waltz, 16-1 Cheater, More Champagne, Lyford Cay, 20-1 others

1995: GYMCRAK CYRANO 6-10-12 Miss C Metcalfe (6-1) N Chamberlain 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

KASIRAMA ¾l 2nd of 9 to Clever Boy in novice handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) with CASH BOX (9lb better off) head 3rd. PHARMISTICE 25¼l 6th of 12 to B The One in National Hunt Flat race at Hexham (2m, good to firm). THE NEXT WALTZ 21¾l 3rd of 9 to Beggars Banquet in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). WOODSTOCK LODGE 1¾l 2nd of 15 to Klondike in selling hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. NENAGH GUNNER best effort 5l and short-head 3rd of 15 to Ultimate Smoothie in NH Flat race at Southwell (2m, good to firm).
Selection: KASIRAMA

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs M Reveley	32	112	28.6	P Niven	44	120	36.7
Mrs J Goodfellow	13	47	27.7	J Callaghan	11	52	21.2
M Hammond	22	92	23.9	A Dobbin	26	128	20.3
G Richards	22	99	22.2	M Moloney	13	64	20.3
G Moore	12	56	21.4	B Storey	22	151	14.6
Mrs S Smith	6	30	20.0	Mr R Hale	4	30	13.3

Christian Dymond makes an enjoyable transition from road to mountain biker on the Lake District fells

Keep changing down and watch out for the sheep

ALLSPORT

Nathalie Fiat of France shows how the sport of mountain biking racing is done as she competes in the Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup

It was a propitious start for a novice: the Lake District fells flaunting their late autumn colours in the sunshine and three miles of disused railway line to ease the transition from road to mountain biker.

The bike I had hired was £1,000 worth of Cannondale Killer V with front suspension, 21 gears and a weight of 24 lbs. According to some, £300 is about the minimum price for a mountain bike that is fit for the hills. In general, the higher the cost the stronger and lighter the build. The most expensive mountain bikes cost between £4,000 and £5,000.

British Rail closed the Penrith to Cockermouth railway line in 1972 but what is lost to the rail traveller in Cumbria is a gain for walkers and mountain bikers. From Keswick railway station the narrow track bed of chipped stones winds peacefully through the trees east towards Threlkeld. One of the greatest joys of off-road biking is that you escape from cars and lorries. But on routes shared with walkers remember that those on foot must always be deferred to.

Every so often the track crosses the River Greta. 135 bridges were built on the 31-mile line, eight of them over this river. There are a few gates to open and close, and once I had to carry the bike down some steep steps which were obviously not part of the original track.

My trip was primarily based on one taken from *Mountain Biking UK's Route Guide T96* (Keswick Stone Circle) and described by Derek Purdy, the magazine's Routes Editor. There are 36 routes nationwide in the guide, ranging from easy to very difficult. Mr Purdy says the Keswick one is a good introduction to off-road biking for both youngsters and adults.

A reasonable amount of fitness is in order to enjoy this sport. Even so beginners to mountain biking should start with easy routes. There is no point in trying to hare up steep hills on your first time out, as you will find it painful and it might put you off trying again.

Mountain biking takes up a lot more energy than road biking, says 56-year-old Mr Purdy, who has been mountain biking since it was introduced into this country in the 1980s. He has written *The Northumberland Mountain Bike Guide* (£7.50, Ernest Press) and is now working on one for Durham.

SPORT FOR ALL

In addition to the Keswick route he suggested, I made use of the one supplied by the Keswick Mountain Bike Centre. I deviated onto this one after reaching the busy A66 at Threlkeld, and followed the main road for about a hundred yards before turning left into Threlkeld and then left again 400 yards later on to the tarmac surface of Blease Road.

So far my average level of fitness had scarcely been tested, but for the next 15 to 20 minutes I was in the lowest of 21 gears, plodding at a steady pace towards the Blencathra field-studies Centre.

From the centre the views south across St John's in the Vale to the fells would have been spectacular, only they were covered by cloud. "I think we're going to get a drop," said a passing walker with massive understatement. A few minutes later a few despondent sheep had joined me for shelter behind a dry-stone wall, watching solemnly as I chewed my sandwiches in the rain.

It was a mark of the exhilaration and enjoyment of the ride that the wind and rain bothered me little. By now I was on a stony and undulating footpath following the barren flanks of the hills north along the Glenderaterra Beck. There was the odd fast-flowing stream to cross and bigger stones to watch out for.

I found I was changing gear a lot, which I had been told at the Keswick Mountain Bike Centre was part and parcel of the sport. After all, you have to use the gears to make the ride as easy as possible for yourself.

Helmets — Mr Purdy says good-looking ones often encourage people to wear them — and eye protectors are vital. The eye protectors may be just sunglasses but the important thing is to stop stones, muck and anything else from getting into your eyes.

After nearly two miles of this rough track, and with the 2,847 ft of Blencathara to my right, I decided to go back the same way and pick up Derek Purdy's route south west of Threlkeld — but not before retreating behind another dry stone wall. At this point there was just me, a few scattered sheep and the louring presence of the fells.

I rode down the steep hill back into the village with glee and then crossed the A66 and took a small road, close to where I had originally emerged from the railway track, signposted Castlerigg Stone Circle. I was back on tarmac but my legs were on holiday. The exertions of the previous three hours had taken their toll and I was forced to dismount occasionally and walk.

The road back to Keswick via the stone circle — a collection of about 40 stones dating from Neolithic times — is well marked and the views from Castlerigg itself are wonderful. From there it is two miles back into the town, much of it downhill. And that suited me fine.

Biking gives you the chance to enjoy spectacular views

MAGAZINES

- *Mountain Biking UK*, £2.95.
- *Mountain Biking UK Route Guide T96*, from magazine (01225 822510). £3.95 inc p & p.
- *Mountain Bike PRO*, £2.95.
- *Mountain Biker International*, £2.70.
- Keswick Mountain Bike Centre (017687 75202).

Racing in the mountains

The Keswick Mountain Bike Centre charged me £15 for the hire of bike, a price which included two absolute essentials — a helmet, £30-£40 to buy, and a tool kit consisting of spare inner tubes, lock, Allen key, box spanner, puncture repair kit, tyre levers and pump.

As for my clothes, I didn't exactly cut a dash but I was warm and damp-proof. Gloves (£5-£25 to buy) are advisable and so are eye protectors/sunglasses/goggles (£20 plus). In winter wear a thermal vest (£20 plus), then a thermal fleece (£35-£40 plus) and on top a *lightweight*, waterproof jacket (£40 plus). Cycle shorts cost £25-£30, leggings £30-£40, cycle shoes £45 plus, rucksack £25 plus and bum bag £15-£25.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Look at this hand from the quarter-final of the Open event of the Olympiad. Two players went down in a contract you would expect to be made round the room at a club duplicate. How would you play Four Hearts?

Dealer North **East-West Game** **IMPs**

North:
♠J
♥10987
♦763
♣98652

West:
♠KQ9865
♥64
♦QJ842
♣—

East:
♠72
♥QJ
♦1095
♣KJ10743

South:
♠A1043
♥AK532
♦AK
♣AQ

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: king of spades

When Denmark played Italy, the Denmark South opened Two Clubs (strong) after two passes, West overcalled Two Spades and South ended up in Four Hearts. West led the king of spades. Declarer won, ruffed a spade at trick two, came to hand with a diamond and ruffed another spade in dummy. That wasn't a success — East overruffed, and the defence cross-ruffed clubs and spades for the next three tricks to take the contract one off.

In the quarter-final between Iceland and Indonesia, the Iceland declarer also went down in Four Hearts, having heard that West was long in spades and diamonds. Again declarer failed to draw trumps, and allowed the same defensive cross-ruff to develop.

You might think the hand is an elementary matter of counting tricks. If declarer lays down the ace of hearts at trick two and everyone follows, the contract is home — he plays a second high heart, and even if they turn out to be 3-1, he has in hand a spade trick, four heart tricks and three tricks in the minors.

After the second high trump he ruffs a spade in dummy, returns to the ace of diamonds and ruffs another spade. As the cards lie that line would have produced two overtricks. If someone shows out on the first heart, there is still the possibility of the club finesse.

So do you think both declarers misplayed? I think you have to give them a little benefit of doubt. It was clearly unlucky to go off as they did. And by playing to ruff three spades they might have overcome a 4-0 break with the king of clubs offside.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Timman wins

Jan Timman, the popular Dutch grandmaster, has won the Dutch championship for the ninth time. Having tied for first place in the championship tournament proper, Timman then had to contest a match against Ivan Sokolov, the former Bosnian grandmaster, who has been resident in Holland for some time. In the past year or so, Timman's results have been unimpressive and he began this match a severe underdog with a rating of 2,590 as opposed to Sokolov's 2,670. Nevertheless, Timman's superior match experience, which includes a number of extended contests against Anatoly Karpov, and a short match against Garry Kasparov, eventually told in his favour. Nevertheless, things looked black for Timman when he lost the first game.

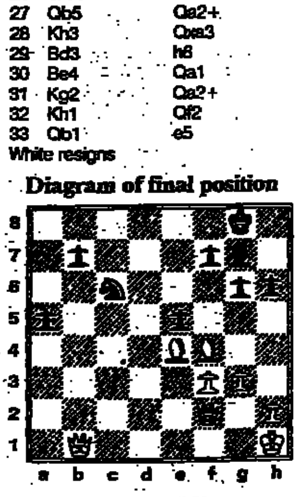
White: Jan Timman
Black: Ivan Sokolov
Dutch Championship play-off
Holland, November 1996

Queen's Gambit Declined Slav Defence

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	a6
5	g3	dxc4
6	a4	g6
7	Bg2	Bg7
8	0-0	0-0
9	e3	a5
10	Ne5	Na6
11	Nxc4	Nb4
12	Qe2	Bg4
13	f3	Be6
14	Rd1	c5
15	dxc5	Qc7
16	Nb6	Rad8
17	Rxd8	Rxd8
18	e4	Rd3
19	Bf1	Ng4
20	Nbd5	Qxc5+
21	Kg2	Bxd5
22	Nxd5	Nxd5
23	exd5	Ne5
24	Bf4	Qxd5
25	Ra3	Rxa3
26	bxa3	Nc6
27	Qb5	Qa2+
28	Kh3	Qxa3
29	Bd3	h6
30	Be4	Qa1
31	Kg2	Qa2+
32	Kh1	Qf2
33	Qb1	e5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



FINAL SCORES

Timman	0	1	+	1	2+
Sokolov	1	0	+	0	1+

In the above table, 1 represents a win, + a draw and 0 a loss.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

VENTRE A TERRE
a. Fast
b. Creepy-crawly
c. How an army marches

LE FIVE O'CLOCK
a. The rush hour
b. Tea time
c. Paris Soir

BOURRICHON
a. A horse
b. A nut
c. A chocolate croissant

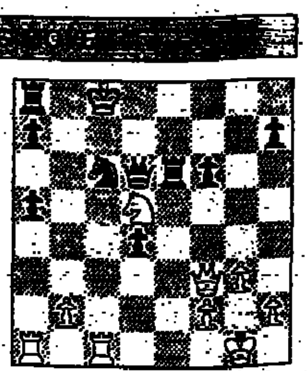
MESSIEURS-DAMES
a. Mixed toilets
b. Female army officers
c. Gays

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Capablanca — Graham, Newcastle 1919. White has great pressure along the open c-file and the *h1-a8 diagonal. How did he* combine these two elements to force a quick win?

Solution on page 46



Reaping the reward for setting new standards of service: **Edward Fennell** introduces a three-page special report on Charter Marks

The sign of excellence

This morning, at about the same time as the newspapers were delivered, the 80 staff of the Sheltered Housing Service of Vale Royal Borough Council, Cheshire, received letters at home telling them that they had won a 1996 Charter Mark. Later today representatives of the service, along with about 320 other organisations, will be at Westminster to receive their Charter Marks and to meet ministers.

For Rita Hollens and her colleagues in Vale Royal, the Charter Mark is an acknowledgement of a job well done. "The staff will be thrilled because it is confirmation that we are providing the public with a good service," she says.

The annual award of Charter Marks (this is the fifth year) is the only occasion in the year when the quality of public services is acknowledged nationally.

It is not a dramatic story. Good public services are quiet and often mundane. But they are also essential. The public sector has traditionally declined to blow its own trumpet. Through the Charter Marks, that is being remedied.

Charter Marks are awarded only after rigorous examination. Organisations must undergo a tough scrutiny in which all the interested parties — not least their customers, clients or patients — are quizzed. Many organisations consider applying. Few, however, are chosen.

The award of a Charter Mark is intended to represent a sign of excellence in public service. As John Major said while presenting the 1994 Charter Mark Awards: "When I set up the Charter Mark Award programme, I had two aims. First, to show my real appreciation of those people who provide an excellent service to the public. They have always been there, but their dedication has not been recognised in the past as it should be. Secondly, I wanted to show the world what people in public service can achieve; provide examples for others to follow, a benchmark by which others can judge their own performances."

The programme now operates under the auspices of the Cabinet Office with recommendations for awards being made by a panel of independent judges chaired by Lord Blyth of Rowington. The programme covers all the public services — health, education, local and central government and agencies, and also the public utilities which still have monopolies. When they were first established in 1992 there was a strict limit set on the number of awards to be made — and for the next two years, fewer than 100 were handed out. Last year, however, there was a change of tack. The "cap" was lifted and any organisations which applied and which could satisfy the Charter Mark standard, as defined in nine criteria of good practice, would be successful.

Once an organisation gains an award, it normally holds it for three years before being invited to apply for reassessment. British Gas bailed out of the programme last year before getting "sacked" after a series of public embarrassments, and this year there are several re-applicants from 1993 (including, for example, the War Pensions Agency and the Merthyr Tydfil Consumer Advice service) which failed to make the grade.

Fortunately the London Borough of Lewisham's "Directeam" Cleaning Services successfully negotiated the reassessment. But how would they have felt if they had failed? Cathy Rooney, their spokeswoman, says: "It would have been a grave disappointment and we would have had to go back to the drawing board to see where were went wrong and examine how we could restore the quality of our service."

So, year-on-year Charter Mark is growing. As well as increasing numbers, the scope of the initiative is developing. The Cabinet Office team which runs the operation is providing an increasing number of advisory and feedback services. Charter Mark is, in effect, on its way to becoming a club which offers a variety of benefits including advice and networking.

But what is obvious from talking to this year's winners is that, above all, the public services long for recognition and appreciation. After all the brickbats and negative comments, Charter Mark may go some way towards restoring pride to public service workers.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Winning smiles: two decorators from the London borough of Hackney, which has won a Charter Mark for its service for pensioners and the disabled, prepare to decorate a sitting room

Bouquets for the people's champions

When the public starts honouring its unsung heroes, that's progress

Behind the award of today's Charter Marks lies the wider debate about the quality of public services in the UK, *Edward Fennell writes.*

The Government would say its innovations, ranging from the national curriculum and league tables for schools to the internal market for the NHS, have been vital in raising standards. The Opposition responds with claims of failing services due to inadequate or misapplied resources.

Although the numbers involved in Charter Mark are still small, Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the minister responsible for the programme, suggests that these winning organisations reflect a change in the culture of a public sector that is becoming more responsive to what the public wants and is providing better value for money.

For example, the biggest growth in the awards this year has been in local government, most of which is not, of course, Conservative-controlled. Mr Freeman says he is particularly pleased by this. He says: "The improvements are in the best tradition of the public sector in the UK by providing services which are of recognisable quality."

Whether today's winners are a thin crust of excellence on top of a mediocre system or whether they represent a more general change is bound to be open to debate. Mr Freeman points out, however, that the number of actual entries is only a fraction of those who are interested in the awards and have absorbed the message they carry. There is strong anecdotal evidence that many public-sector organisations are refashioning the systems they use to take account of Charter Mark principles. "The benefits and improvements will be seen in the years ahead," Mr Freeman says.

In any case, another encouraging feature Mr Freeman highlights is the success of the decision to invite the public to nominate organisations for good performance. Publicity for this was distributed through Tesco and thousands of recommendations were received as a result. Mr Freeman says this suggests that people are increasingly impressed by the quality of the services they receive on a day-to-day basis. The sensational stories of failure "at the margin", such as The Ridings School in Calderdale, are exceptional.

"What we are really talking about is good government," Mr Freeman says. "We reckon there are now about 10,000 local charters in operation, in which organisations publish their standards of service and can be held accountable for delivery. It is through such measures that standards are being raised."

He says he would like to see more organisations applying for Charter Marks, especially schools and family doctors' surgeries.

He believes there are many good examples to be found in these sectors once people come forward to report what they are doing. As well as being a stimulus to raise standards, the Charter Mark shows that excellence already exists within the system. He says: "What we have seen is that given the opportunity people take great pride in their local services. There is always a lot of interest locally in Charter Mark success stories. People value their local services and this is one way of recognising and acknowledging that."

Charter Mark is also about raising the performance of public-sector management. Mr Freeman points out that, without any extra expenditure, effort and good organisation, together with some imagination and sensitivity, will produce better public services. Competition and the bottom line provide the incentive for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the private sector, but the public sector requires different measures and motivation.

Roger Freeman: praising councils and avoiding party politics

Yet despite the successes embodied in the Charter Mark programme, Mr Freeman is reluctant to try to make partisan political capital out of it.

"Charter Mark has gained broad party support across the political spectrum and is on solid foundations. We don't intend to gain electoral advantage from it," he says.

"The true interpretation of the significance of Charter Mark remains a conundrum. Even so, the quality of the winners is clear and many public services are now run in a more professional way than ever before. We are talking about exceptional quality and service from a small number of organisations but I believe they are an inspiration for improvement in the quality of the public sector as a whole."

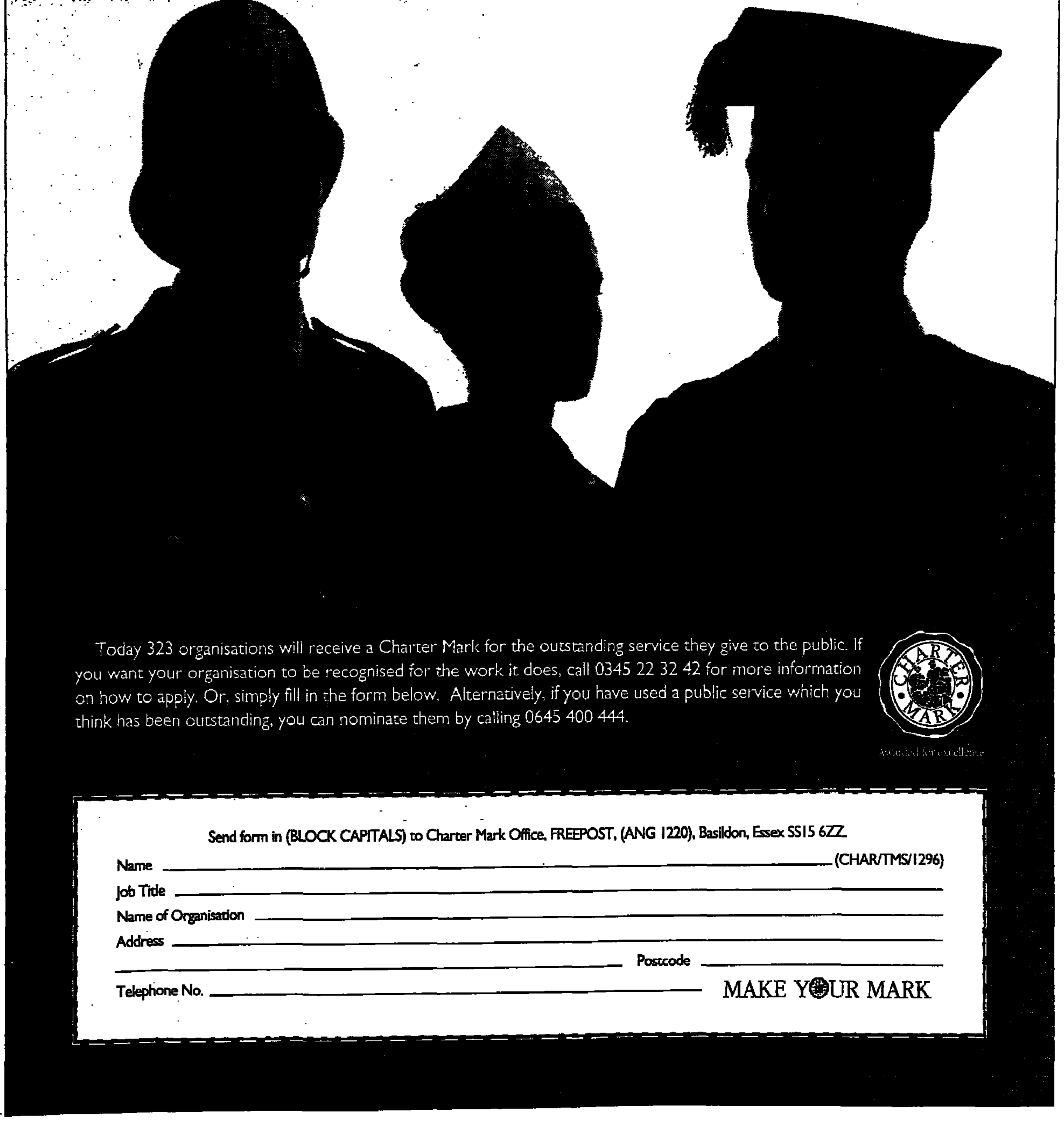
APPLY HERE IF YOU WANT TO BE RECOGNISED.

Today 323 organisations will receive a Charter Mark for the outstanding service they give to the public. If you want your organisation to be recognised for the work it does, call 0345 22 32 42 for more information on how to apply. Or, simply fill in the form below. Alternatively, if you have used a public service which you think has been outstanding, you can nominate them by calling 0645 400 444.

Send form in (BLOCK CAPITALS) to Charter Mark Office, FREEPOST, (ANG 1220), Basildon, Essex SS15 6ZZ.

Name ________________ (CHAR/TMS/1296)
Job Title ________________
Name of Organisation ________________
Address ________________
________________ Postcode ________________
Telephone No. ________________

MAKE YOUR MARK



هكذا في الاصل

Edward Fennell predicts continued success for a scheme generally backed by political parties; **Lucy Hodges** looks at case studies

A winner — and it is here to stay

It is highly likely that today's Charter Mark ceremony will be repeated this time next year, no matter who occupies No 10 Downing Street. Although Labour yesterday made specific criticism of this year's awards (see Page 9), in a document published in October, which in many respects was highly critical of the Government's approach to the public sector, Derek Foster, MP, the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was surprisingly generous.

"The scheme has proved popular, particularly in encouraging public services to improve and it should continue," he said. At the same time, however, he commented that under a Labour government the scheme would be broadened and wider public participation encouraged. Citizens and the consumer movement would be enabled to "act through congratulation as well as complaint".

But he also included a word of caution. "Should standards be seen to drop, we will vigorously enforce the removal of Charter Marks," he said — clearly firing a warning shot across the bows of the public utilities, whose conduct has posed the biggest threat to the credibility of the Charter Mark.

The fact that the Charter Mark has to some extent won over Labour represents quite a victory for the Government. As Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, says: "Any fair-minded observer would say that the Charter Mark has put down solid foundations and is here to stay. It is an honest, serious, permanent and non-partisan contribution to raising the standard of public service."

Charter Mark arises out of the Charter movement and is run by the Citizen's Charter team in the Cabinet Office. But while the Mark enjoys unalloyed support, politicians are still trying to squeeze some marginal advantage out of the Citizen's Charter.

> ‘It is an honest, serious, permanent and non-partisan contribution to raising standards’
>
> Roger Freeman

John Major has described the Charter initiative as a long-term programme which is about cultural change. He says: "The Citizen's Charter is not about bureaucracy. It is about people. It is about improving the quality of people's lives."

Of course, subsequent rows — such as that over mixed-sex wards in hospitals — have rather whittled away some of the advantage that the Charter might have brought. Labour describes the five years of the charter as "a history of lost opportunities and of failure to fulfil its unique potential". It adds: "The Conservatives' Charter has not fulfilled its promise. It has failed both service user and provider."

Notwithstanding that criticism, the concept of the Charter has been endorsed by Labour. It says that it will give the Citizen's Charter more bite by "bringing it directly into people's homes using teletext and the Internet".

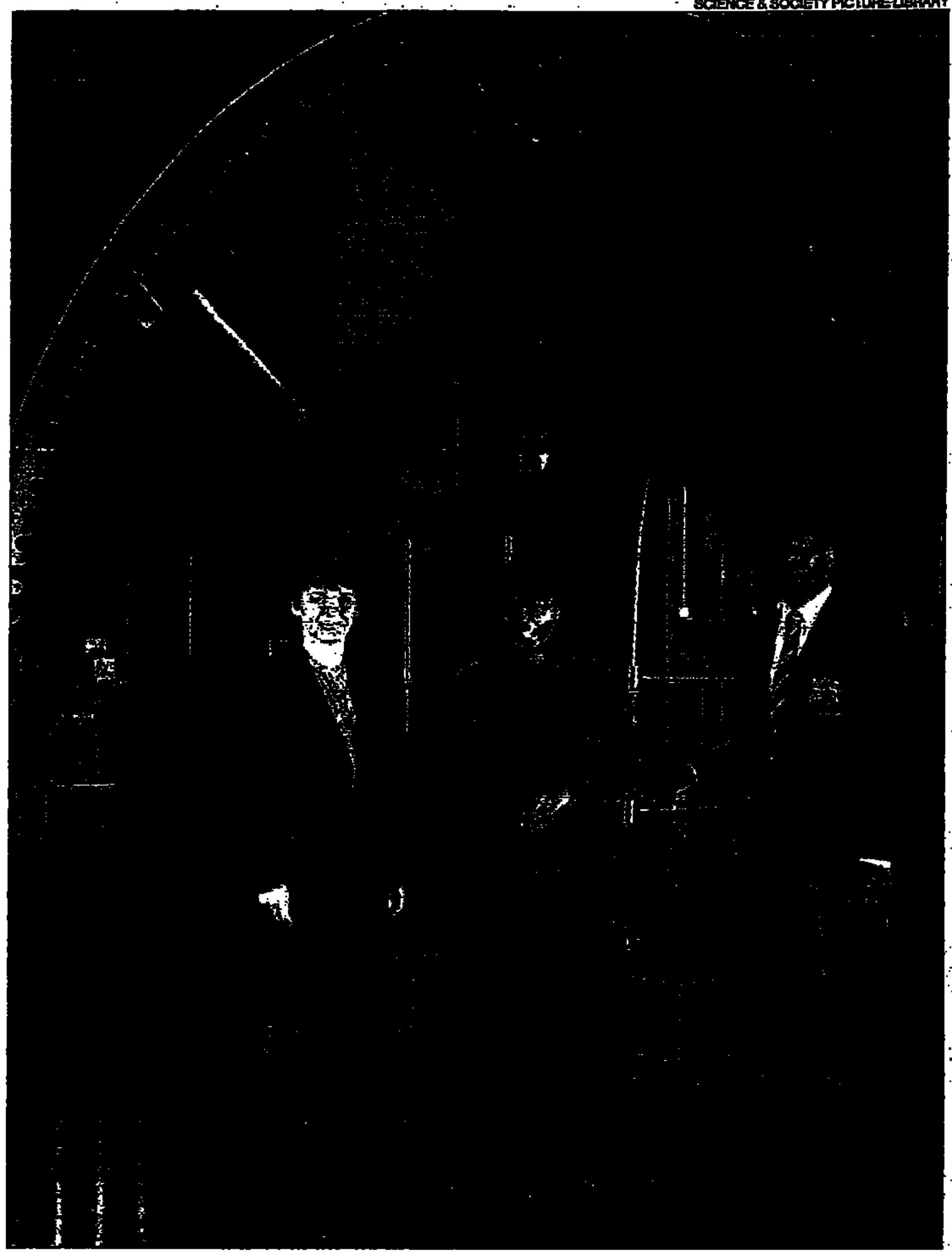
It also states that it will "initiate a cultural revolution in the complaints procedure by using complaints as an opportunity to improve design and delivery of service, not a nuisance to be defensive about". In fact, the Government has been saying much the same thing for some time now.

The Liberal Democrats are, meanwhile, fully behind the notion of the Charter and claim that they thought of it first. In their last statement on the matter, they said: "We welcome the Government's belated acceptance of the principle of our ideas for public service charters. We regret, however, that it has failed to adopt many of the detailed proposals that are necessary to ensure the delivery of a high-quality service."

So, apart from the rhetorical flourishes designed to create an illusion of difference between them, the three parties are pretty much in accord. They hate to say so, but basically they agree with each other.

Charter Mark and Citizen's Charters are basically a good thing. We shall be living with them for some time to come.

SCIENCE & SOCIETY PICTURE LIBRARY



At your service: Charter Mark winners keeping the wheels turning smoothly at the Science Museum are a warder, explainer and ticket/shop assistant — each doing their bit to answer visitors' inquiries

Big wheels and little dials

AMONG winners in this category are the Science Museum in London, pictured left, the Crafts Council, the tourist information centre in Belfast and BBC Radio Leicester.

Almost 30 years ago Radio Leicester became the first local radio station in Britain. Today it is the first broadcaster in the country to win a Charter Mark. "It is wonderful," says Liam MacCarthy, its editor. "We believe this shows the commitment we have to serve the people of Leicestershire, providing a value for money service that is unique."

Each week 213,000 people in the county listen to the station's mixture of news, sport, information, community debate and entertainment. Twenty years ago the station launched the first daily programme for Asian listeners, which has been expanded into a key part of a new BBC Asian network serving more than 350,000 across the Midlands.

The Belfast information centre, run by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, won a Charter Mark because it offers a first-class service to the public, according to David Roulston, manager of information services.

Each member of staff wears a name badge which identifies fluency in particular languages; employees are trained in deaf awareness; there is a minicom telephone for customers with hearing difficulties and the centre meets strict deadlines for responding to inquiries.

Roy Bailie, chairman of the tourist board, says: "I am delighted with this official recognition of the dedication and commitment of a small number of staff. The last two years have seen a massive increase in accommodation bookings."

Schools' top mark

GRANGE PARK, a primary school in Sunderland, in an area of high unemployment and deprivation, is the first school in the North East to win a Charter Mark. John O'Neill, head teacher, attributes his school's success to a highly committed staff who work well as a team. "Teamwork is the key feature," he says.

Earlier this year, school inspectors recognised Grange Park as a "school of many strengths" and the head says it is determined to give its 340 children — aged four to 11 — the tools and motivation to be prepared for, and optimistic about, the future.

The school has been concentrating on raising standards of literacy and reading through the Reading Recovery Programme and on improving behaviour through an "assertive discipline" scheme. The latter sets out clear boundaries. Children are rewarded for good behaviour.

Grange Park also has a school council — rare in a primary school — in which pupils have a say about the way the school is run.

Another inner-city school which has won a Charter Mark is Danum Comprehensive in Doncaster. The school, with its 1,300 pupils, including 250 in the sixth form, is known for its strong community links, particularly with local businesses. Last year school inspectors praised Danum for its caring ethos.

Hayle Community School in Cornwall, a comprehensive with 620 pupils, won a Charter Mark for the second time. "It is a tribute to the partnership between home, school and community," says head teacher Alec Oliver.

The partnership between home and school is given high priority and pupils' progress is well monitored with information made available to parents. Together with a study diary, regular newsletters and a school newspaper, this ensures there is considerable opportunity for parental involvement, resulting in high academic standards.

Driving force

THE Europa Buscentre in Belfast, a second-time winner, has improved its service even more, according to its district manager Aiden Faloona. They are hoping for a hat trick in 1999.

Hailed by Neil Kinnock, European transport commissioner, as an example of the "best transport practice in Europe", the Europa Buscentre offers services that it claims rival, and even exceed, the standards of many airports. Since its first Charter Mark it has added an information desk with multilingual staff, extra facilities for people who find it difficult to get around, and a new bus service. The opening of the adjacent Great Victoria Street railway station last year provides an integrated building with bus and rail facilities with a link on the same level to airports, ferry terminals and local hospitals.

Other winners in the category are Anglia Railways in London and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive which has won two awards — for its Meadowhall and Sheffield interchanges.

Charter Mark inspectors reported that both interchanges were clean, efficient and comfortable with good customer standards that were properly monitored.

Success that caps it all

THIS is the first year that housing associations have been included in the Charter Mark awards. Nine have won awards, including Blackwater housing association in Braintree, Essex, which began in 1989 and now provides more than 500 homes.

Blackwater prides itself on its standards of consumer care and was recently declared 100 per cent friendly in a customer survey. "We have been able to maintain standards despite our increasing size," says Michael Leggett, a director.

Numerous Government benefits agency offices have won Charter Marks as well as the benefits agency investigation service for Cornwall — the first fraud organisation in the country to win. One of its unusual features is a customer services manager.

"We have shown that we can deliver excellent value for money to the taxpayer while at the same time not losing sight of the needs of all those we come into contact with," says Vic Hibbert, the manager. The team has saved the taxpayer more than £16 million.

Government departments which have won awards include the Customs and Excise VAT office in Edinburgh, a second-time winner. It has continually striven to improve its services and introduce innovations. Local businesses, for example, are being helped to understand the basics of VAT through evening seminars, one-to-one surgeries and videos.

Wessex Water, South Staffordshire Water and Severn Trent Water authorities have won Charter Marks the category of privatised utilities and nationalised industries.

The Royal Mail's customer service network in North Wales and the North West has also been recognised.

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A second Charter Mark for Anglia Railways.

Anglia Railways is delighted to have become the first train operating company to have been awarded the coveted Charter Mark for the second time.

In 1993, Anglia Railways was the first train operator to receive the Charter Mark in recognition of its excellent standards of service. In 1996, the commitment and achievement of our staff in continually improving our service has been recognised again.

Anglia RAILWAYS

Anglia Railways providing INTERCITY® and local train services for East Anglia.

The award scheme is underpinned by nine criteria and the rigorous but fair process used by the assessors to judge organisations

Only those with flair need apply

The value of the Charter Mark rests largely on the rigour of the assessment process, *Edward Fennell writes*. To stand a chance, organisations must show that they satisfy the nine criteria which form the basis of the initiative (see box).

Beyond that, however, they must be running their operation with a particular flair for efficiency or imagination. Most Charter Mark winners have something special to offer that makes them stand out from the crowd.

Although the initial selection is based on a written presentation, the assessors insist they are looking for substance, not window-dressing.

An increasing number of small units, such as primary and infant schools and individual hospital departments, are applying, so it is unlikely that many entrants will be able to draw on the services of public relations advisers. The unvarnished truth is what the assessors want to see.

Most of this comes up during the assessor's visits. Once an entry looks promising, an assessor will call. Often these assessors will have a particular expertise, but they act generally as alert laymen and surrogates of the general public.

Derek Turner is a former member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools and is now an educational consultant. As well as being an Ofsted school inspector he undertakes Charter Mark inspections and sees beneficial parallels between the two.

"Most organisations look better in practice than they appear on paper," he says, and explains that the real aim of the visit is to see whether the evidence is available to back up claims made in the written submission. The visits are intensive and involve the questioning of managers, staff and consumers. One of the challenges is to ensure that all the assessors are using the same standards of judging.

Tom Corrigan, the assessors team leader, has the job of maintaining quality control. He says: "One of my roles is to ensure that double checks are made through other sources such as audit reports."

Once the assessors are satisfied, the recommendation goes before the national judging panel.

The final list is passed to the Prime Minister. The results of his decision are on show today.

After the assessment is complete, the last job for the assessors is to provide feedback to entrants — not least to those who failed. Once disappointed applicants have understood where they need to make improvements, they do not feel so bad about failing and can be determined to try again.

Frequently they become the successful entrants of the year after.

THE CRITERIA

Standards: Setting, monitoring and publication of explicit standards for the services that individual users can reasonably expect.

Information and openness: Full, accurate information readily available in plain language about how public services are run, what they cost, how well they perform and who is in charge.

Choice and consultation: The public sector should provide choice. There should be regular consultation and users' views taken into account.

Courtesy and helpfulness: Courteous and helpful service from public servants.

Putting things right: With an apology, a full explanation and a swift and effective remedy.

Value for money: Efficient and economical delivery of public services within resources the nation can afford.

Customer satisfaction: Evidence that organisations can demonstrate customer satisfaction with the service

Measurable improvements: Measurable improvements in the quality of service over the last two or more years.

Innovation: To have in hand, or plan to introduce, at least one innovative enhancement to services without any extra cost.

Winner: Rail Regulator, John Swift, front, at the launch of Anglia Railways' portable ramp for wheelchair passengers at Ipswich

Winning team: husband and wife doctors Kallol and Bhaswati Majumdar, who won a Charter Mark at their Isle of Wight surgery

Top city services

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOUR of the city's services in Birmingham have won charter marks for the quality of their work and their responsiveness to people. They are the Ruby Rhydderch home and daycare centre for old people; leisure services; public health and trading standards which has developed a "wasp buster" initiative to reduce delays in treating wasp nests; and Birchfield community school, a primary school for 760 pupils in Aston.

The philosophy of excellence combined with meeting the individual needs of users is embodied at the old people's home which has a charter of 20 rights for residents and a keyworker system whereby each resident has a particular care assistant who is responsible for their personal and emotional needs.

Would-be house owners in *the Midlands, Dudley metropolitan borough*, are also receiving a high quality service. The local land charges team has won a Charter Mark for the speed and efficiency with which it processes land and property searches.

Since 1991 there has been a seven-day guaranteed service for the searches. Last year 7,360 searches were processed; the average time was three days.

Other local authority winners include the London borough of Hackney which has won a charter mark for its decorating service (pictured on page 39) for pensioners and the disabled, and Newark and Sherwood district council in Nottinghamshire which has won two awards. The charter marks have gone to the council's housing and environmental health department and the homelessness and housing advice section.

Another council recognised for its work on the homeless is Liverpool where the housing advice service has won a Charter Mark.

Quality in a crisis

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SATISFIED users of ambulances in Merseyside and Cheshire nominated their local ambulance service for a Charter Mark award — and the judges agreed with them.

Eighteen months ago the ambulance service set out to improve its management and this year it is reaping the reward: a British Standards Institute award for management and a Charter Mark. "It's an acknowledgement of the efforts of the management team and the staff working together to set standards," said David Todhunter, chief executive.

Another winner, Greater Manchester Police, has won praise for consulting with the community and its community policing initiatives, which involved clean-up campaigns and the eviction of problem families *in two estates in Swinton. Extensive* restructuring of management ranks meant more bobbies back on the beat.

North of the border, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary has won a Charter Mark for the second time, as has Dumfries and Galloway fire brigade. The police in the area have seen a fall in crime of 13.7 per cent, or 1,446 fewer crimes, since 1993. Detection rates have risen by 11.3 per cent and stand now at around 65 per cent.

The force consistently achieves close to 100 per cent satisfaction rates in user surveys and has operated a substantial number of programmes aimed at consulting with, and providing information to, the public. Alan Raymond, one of its constables based at Wigtown, has won a Charter Mark for best staff suggestion this year.

He had the idea of a mobile police station to serve the more remote communites of South West Scotland. It was an instant hit.

Just what the patients ordered

HEALTH

DOCTORS Kallol and Bhaswati Majumdar, two GPs in the Isle of Wight who won a Charter Mark, are a husband and wife team who have introduced a special pop-in clinic for teenagers as well as alternative therapies such as acupuncture.

They were nominated by more than 100 local people, which led to the first ever Isle of Wight Charter Mark to the Ryde-based surgery.

"When we first started the practice we had only 1,000 patients," Kallol Majumdar explains. "Now we have more than 2,300. That indicates we don't give bad service."

For the second consecutive year East Gloucestershire NHS Trust has won a Charter Mark for the quality of its services and its innovative ideas.

New schemes for customers include a children's menu designed by a patient on *Battledown* ward at Cheltenham General Hospital, short-legged pyjamas for patients undergoing lower leg surgery and personal care packs for emergency patients, including toiletries and nightwear.

Several members of the public nominated the trust for the award because they were so impressed with their care and treatment. "We were delighted in 1993 when we received the award for the first time," says Clive Thomson, trust chairman. "This year it is even more pleasing."

The accident and emergency department at Belfast City Hospital, which deals with the victims of bombs, bullets and punishment beatings, was another award winner. Despite the unpredictable nature of their work in the province, staff introduced new ways to improve patient care.

Emergency nurse practioners were appointed to speed up patient flow and reduce waiting times for minor complaints. A 24-hour helpline was set up as well as bereavement counselling.

At Harefield Hospital in Uxbridge an award was made to the *paediatric surgical unit for improving* treatment and care of children and their families. State-of-the-art medical advances and new procedures reduce pain as well as the child's stay in hospital.

Hackney Construction Services

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We would like to say a big thank you to the customers who nominated us for our Charter Mark success – and everyone else who has been pleased with the decoration service we provide.

This is the first Charter Mark to be awarded to a painting service and we are pleased with the achievement of our skilled and dedicated team of painters and decorators.

We provide an internal decorating service for the elderly and disabled tenants in Hackney – and according to a recent survey, this has achieved an impressive 100% customer satisfaction.

We are not complacent and aim to continuously improve and extend services to our customers.

Charter Mark was achieved through:

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- a password system to protect vulnerable and elderly tenants
- an improved information pack providing full details of the service
- a large choice of good quality wallpapers and paint colours
- regular quality inspections of the work
- a staff suggestion scheme
- customer-nominated Awards for excellence

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We're over the Moon

(Not literally, of course, because the energy required to escape the earth's gravitational pull on a body the size of the Science Museum's building at South Kensington is 3.13×10^{16}J. That's the equivalent of 7.47 million tonnes of TNT, and one big bang's enough for us.)

Awarded for excellence

The Science Museum has won a Charter Mark for Excellence in Customer Service.

SCIENCE MUSEUM - SEE INSIDE FOR INSPIRATION

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,643.30	Allied Domecq	447½	+ 5	6.8	13.1
286.40	Bulmer (HP)	542½	+ 8½	3.0	18.2
42.10	Burn Stewart†	71	+ 2	6.0	75.5
98.70	Glenmorangie A	847½	+ 32½	1.8	23.0
9,763.80	Grand Met	464½	− 7	4.1	19.7
8,588.50	Guinness	445	− 1½	4.3	13.8
457.20	Highland Dist	343	+ 13½	3.1	18.2
258.00	Matthew Clark	291½	+ 9	10.3	13.9
10.10	Minmet W	92½	− 16	6.4	12.2
4,425.90	SA Breweries	1503¼	...	2.2	

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
11,713.40	ABN-AMRO	3962½	− 3¼	3.2	14.7
9,799.80	Abbey Natl	695½	+ 33	4.2	12.9
2,641.20	Allied Irish	392½	+ 4	4.6	11.3
5,413.00	Aus New Z	389½	+ 10½	4.9	...
24,756.50	Bank America†	6071¼	+ 321¼		
3,495.50	Bank Scotland†	283	+ 3½	3.1	10.7
15,761.90	Barclays	1027½	+ 29	3.4	11.2
2,488.80	Bk of Ireland	517½	+ 19	4.0	11.7
123.40	Cater Allen	378½	− 4	10.1	14.6
27,404.30	Citicorp	5662½			
390.50	Close Bros	323½	− 1	3.9	13.0
4,816.80	Commerzbk	1346¼	− 25	3.5	
20,830.60	Dai Ichi Kan Y	988½	− 16½	0.5	
13,626.40	Deutsche Bk	2865¼	+ 31¼	2.4	
183.90	Espirito Santo	765¼		4.3	11.1
30,083.50	Fuji Bank Y	1039¼	− 44¼	0.4	...
132.50	Gerrard Natl	271	− 3½	10.6	11.0
426.60	Hambros†	242	− ½	3.9	32.5
11,178.80	HSBC	1384	+ 38½	3.7	12.2
22,396.50	HSBC Hk	1250½	+ 37½	3.8	11.8
413.20	Irish Perm	480½	+ 3	3.0	13.1
48.40	King Shaxson†	183½	+ 1	6.1	15.9
24.60	Leopold J	465		5.2	16.8
21,144.80	Lloyds TSB	412½	+ 20	3.6	17.5
10,732.10	Nat Aust Bk	738½	+ 46¼	5.6	9.9
11,759.60	Nat West	698½	− 3	4.8	9.8
29.80	Rea Brothers	81½	− 1	2.0	24.2
4,275.80	Royal Bk Scot	524	+ 6½	4.6	11.3
2,310.30	Schroders	1530	− 117½	1.4	17.4
569.20	Schroders N/V	1265	+ 70	1.7	14.4
252.60	Singer & Fried	127	+ 1	4.2	9.3
6,633.40	Stand Chart	679½	+ 16	2.2	13.2
24.90	Union	93½	− 1½	4.0	10.8
16,057.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
6,740.30	Westpac	354¾	+ 2¼	3.8	11.4
27.30	Whiteaway	317½		4.9	15.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8.40	Abrdn Stk H&D	70			19.5
6,910.50	Bass	783½	− 23½	3.7	16.9
12.60	Bdr for the Bdr	51	+ 1	4.3	13.8
35.90	Burtonwd Brwt	172½		4.1	15.5
250.30	City Centre Rest	129		2.2	24.3
1,925.00	Compass Gp	606½	+ 3	1.6	28.9
53.70	Eldridge P 'A'	255½	+ 12	2.6	
62.00	Fuller Sm A	452½		2.5	15.5
1,772.10	Greenalls Gp	600½	+ 7½	3.1	16.3
407.50	Greene King	673½	+ 11½	2.9	16.9
27.90	Grosvenor Inns	196½	− 5	3.7	20.9
64.70	Groupe Chez Ger	239	− 6	1.5	23.2
59.20	Hardy Hansn	296	+ 2	4.3	11.1
79.80	Holt J	2750	+ 25	2.6	14.8
31.90	Inn Business	67		1.0	31.7
210.30	Mansfield†	325	+ 7	2.4	14.9
256.20	Marston Thmp	284	− 6	3.6	11.6
161.60	Morland	567½		2.8	
47.10	My Kinda Town†	187		2.0	16.3
7.41	Paramount	6¼	− ¼		
336.00	PizzaExpress	527½	+ 4	0.6	40.6
33.70	Ramsdens (H)	382½	..	1.6	41.0
261.80	Regent Inns	309½	− 3	0.9	36.0

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
295.90	Bramner	644	− 28½	2.9	18.4
5.50	Bridgend Gpt	20	..	1.2	..
21.30	Brit Fittings	89½		5.2	10.2
5.40	Caffyns	285	...	5.0	22.6
31.90	Cawdale	120	− ½	3.5	7.9
52.90	Charles Sidney	79	− 2½	6.0	11.1
24.50	Cook (DC)	57	− 4	4.6	7.0
22.10	Dag Motors	96		10.0	6.8
24.90	Dewhurst B	140½	− 1	2.4	14.1
206.80	Diploma†	370	− 2½	4.9	
1,878.60	Electrocomp†	441½		2.0	26.8
93.30	Eurodis Elec	159		3.8	15.4
58.30	Eurodollar	119		4.3	17.8
48.20	European Mtr	90	+ 5	7.6	9.0
76.20	Evans Halshaw	237½		8.7	9.3
7.67	Fife Indmar	49½		8.3	7.4
156.80	Foxfel Grp	313¼	...	2.6	18.0
35.60	Gardiner	33		3.3	13.2
19.60	Glenchewton	65	+ 1½	2.9	19.2
7.59	Goodwyns	82½		4.2	14.0
23.20	Hartwell	78	− 5	9.6	7.2
27.70	Harris (Philip)	251½	− 1	4.1	18.9
150.50	Headlam†	393½	+ 3½	2.2	23.5
5.22	Holders Tech	187½	...	4.5	15.7
85.40	ISA Intl	212½	+ 2½	1.5	19.3
1,425.10	Inchcape†	260½	+ 2	3.8	23.0
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
395.10	Kwik-Fit	224		2.9	18.0
382.90	Lex Service	336½	− 23½	5.7	10.8
38.10	Lookers	114	− ½	8.8	6.7
19.60	Malaya Grp	12		6.9	12.9
48.10	Middlesex	8½	− ½	1.5	9.5
22.10	Midstates	42	− ½	0.7	
49.00	Norbain	466½		2.0	13.7
52.40	Northamber	309½	− 12½	0.9	9.2
11.10	PCT©	125		7.7	11.7
155.40	Parkin†	322¼	...	2.8	15.4
132.50	Pendragon	342½	...	3.4	16.6
48.60	Perry Gp†	190½	..	5.5	9.7
1,928.90	Premier Farnell†	711	+ 4	2.0	27.6
34.20	Quicks Group	147½	− 1	5.5	11.1
25.90	REA	285	+ 2½	1.8	34.2
4.43	Reece	2½			
18.80	Roscoe	21	+ 1	8.9	7.2
4.43	Ross Gp	3			...
46.40	SEP Ind	51½	− ½	4.0	11.1
18.50	Sidlaw	71½	− 1	1.7	23.2
197.40	Time Products	385½	+ 1	3.8	14.6
29.70	UNIECO	270	− 10	2.2	18.2
166.70	Vardy (Reg)	294½	+ 5	2.8	13.8
67.90	WF Elect	475	+ 15	3.4	20.3
30.20	Wiltshier†	32½	− 1½	3.1	8.5
97.30	Wyko	140	+ 4½	2.0	19.8
21.60	Young (H)	131½	− 1	3.8	12.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6.89	Anglo Utd	0¾	..		
579.20	Antofagasta†	368½	− 4	1.8	14.3
255.70	Ascot Hldgs	325	+ 3	..	12.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
125.60	Goodmatic	253½	− 1	4.7	.
4.31	Gradual Grp	11½	+ 1½	2.7	.
0.88	Radiant Metal	65			
75.30	Ransomes	54½		1.1	13.3
19.30	Record†	56½	...	8.0	10.8
180.70	Renold†	264½	− 4½	3.4	11.9
0.71	Richards Group#	8½			
30.70	Richardson West	84½		5.4	9.6
3,763.40	Rolls-Royce†	256½	+ 9½	2.4	25.4
234.30	Rotork	267½		2.9	22.2
175.20	Rubicon	200	− 1½	3.8	14.8
805.20	SKF 'B'	1262½	− 18¾	3.7	7.7
337.10	Senior Engg	111	...	4.0	15.3
64.70	Swift-Rite	330½	+ 10½	1.4	27.3
4,491.10	Siebe	949½	− 8	1.8	21.6
54.30	Simon Eng	34½	− 1	2.3	12.8
130.60	Six Hundred	237½	− 2½	2.5	4.6
2,414.10	Smiths Indt	781½	− 10	2.6	20.3
592.50	Spirax-Sarco	751	+ 3½	2.3	20.9
69.20	Sterling Ind	293½	− 5½	3.8	14.6
2,639.40	TI	554½	− 16	3.0	19.8
78.50	Tockey (E)	113½	− 5	6.4	12.8
198.10	TransTec	119½		2.4	21.2
137.02	Triplex Lloyd†	208½	− 1	4.2	11.8
50.40	Unicorn Ind	150½	− 5	4.6	13.4
23.50	Utd Inds	52½		6.4	8.6
24.70	Verson	16½	− ¼		
915.90	Vickers	272½	+ 3½	3.2	16.8
11.50	Villiers Grp	9¼			18.1
341.70	Vitec†	704½	+ 1	1.8	13.1
282.90	Vosper Thorny†	878½	+ 2½	3.4	14.7
180.20	Wagon Ind	299½	+ 1	8.4	9.0
481.20	Weir	240	+ 15	4.0	15.0
59.10	Wellington Hdg	250½		3.8	15.6
41.60	Wellman	28½		7.9	5.2
16.40	Wescott	32½	− 8	2.4	20.1
134.80	Whatman	571	+ 21	2.7	23.4
6.35	Widney	52½	+ 1	8.3	6.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
118.80	Adwest	143½	− 1	6.8	30.6
16.09	Airflow Streamt	188		5.3	8.1
168.30	Avon Rubber	690	− 1	3.3	16.8
293.50	BSG†	95½	− ¼	4.3	14.9
42.20	Bostrom†	250	− 12½	3.4	10.3
10.30	Boustead#	16½		7.6	38.7
28.70	ERF	293		1.9	..
101.30	First Tech	641		1.7	21.3
3,950.10	GKN	1119	+ 11½	2.8	19.4
23,359.10	General Mtr	3287½		2.9	
293.60	Hayes	354	− 5½	2.9	14.1
17,082.40	Honda Motor	1754½	+ 120½	0.4	
595.80	Laird†	419	− ½	3.6	12.7
9.50	Lodes	475		0.3	
3,632.70	LucasVarity	257½	+ 13½	0.0	
307.60	Mayflower▼	140½	− ½	1.9	33.9
38.30	Sylone	157½	− 5	4.5	12.3
1,005.30	T & N	189	+ 5½	4.0	13.3
161.60	Trinity Hldgs	288½	+ 4	3.7	14.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
82.60	HTR Jap Smaller	82½	− 4¼	...	..
0.50	IBS Est	17			
46.10	INS UK Smlr	159	+ 3½	2.3	36.2
367.40	Inv Capt	148½	+ 2¼	4.5	24.8
40.80	Intl Biotech	104½	+ 4½	.	.
2.15	Intl Wts	28½	+ 1	..	.
28.50	Intl C	95	+ 1	.	69.4
115.20	INVESCO Asia	102½	+ 1¾	0.7	...
6.44	INVESCO Blue	51	+ 3	21.8	4.9
114.80	INVESCO Eng Int	181		0.8	60.9
18.60	INVESCO Jap Dis	69½	− 1¼	...	...
28.20	INVESCO Korea	85	− 4¼		...

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
35.00	Clubhaus	83½	+ 3	...	...
67.50	Eurocamp	189	...	7.3	9.1
978.20	Euro Disney	128	+ 1½	...	.
39.20	Euro Leisure▲	177½	− 5	..	4.7
3.88	Ferrogiad	11½	..	...	
138.30	First Choice	58	+ 1	8.3	..
588.00	First Leisure	347	+ 8	2.8	20.2
32.10	Friendly Hotels†	152	− 8	4.7	19.4
7,392.80	Granada	864½	− 17½	1.9	23.2
19.50	Hi-Tec Sports	38½	..	...	15.4
21.10	Hornby	251½	+ 1½	2.2	
102.30	Hozelock	430	...	2.6	15.8

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Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
51.10	INVESCO Tokyo	45½	− 1½	.	.
22.60	J Fry 2nd Utl	78	+ 1½	11.5	9.7
8.73	J Fry Euro U	82	+ 3	6.8	13.2
115.50	JF Fledg Jap	183½	− 3½	.	..
31.80	Jupiter Ex Inc†	85½	+ 1½	11.4	.
0.26	Jupiter Ex IncWt	4¼			
11.20	Jupiter Grd Capt	60	.	12.2	10.2
10.80	Jupiter Grd Pld	30¾	+ 1¼		
30.30	Jupiter Intl Grn	120½		3.9	...
243.60	Kleinwt Chr	300¼	+ 4¼	2.3	53.1
23.10	Kleinwt E Mkt	103	− ½	...	.
46.40	Kleinwt End	154¾	+ 1¼		
487.60	Kleinwt Euro Prvl#	97½		2.9	43.1
29.00	Kleinwt Euro Wts#	21			..

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
300.00	Jarvis Hotels	170½	+ 6	0.7	.
117.80	Jurys Hotel	277½	+ 10¼	2.9	
51.80	Kunick	22¼	+ 2½	3.7	10.7
2,398.50	Ladbroke†	205	− 2	3.7	27.1
468.70	London Clubs	331	− 2½	2.9	22.8
345.40	Man Utd†	558	− 9½	1.2	37.2
647.80	Mandarin Ornt†	91¼	− 5	3.6	21.5
509.70	Millennium & Cop	352½	− 1	0.2	27.0
81.10	Northern†	167½	+ 3	3.2	17.1
10.60	Prism Leisure	124½		5.8	7.3
31.00	Queensborough	30½	− 1½	.	.
38.00	Queens Moat	15	− ¼	..	
3,636.60	Rank Grp	435	+ 19½	4.6	14.5
26.80	Regal Hotels	41	+ 1½	5.1	6.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
27.00	M&G Rec Cap	20½			
452.70	M&G Rec Growth†	45½	− ¼	15.0	8.3
33.00	M&G Rec Inct	24½		27.8	4.5
162.20	M&G Rec Ranger	144½	− 1	4.7	26.4
134.00	M&G Rec Zero Div	99½	+ 1	..	..
34.40	M Cartn Euro	147½	+ 1	0.6	...
18.70	M Cartn Japan	86½	− 3½	.	...
61.30	M Cartn Pac	149½	+ ½	0.8	.
128.60	Majedie	245½	+ 4	3.4	31.6
278.30	Merchants	272	+ 3½	6.0	22.5
586.20	Mercury Euro Pv	105½	+ 1¼	2.2	41.6
35.40	Mercury Eur Wt	30¾	+ ¼	...	
379.10	Mercury World	89	+ ½	1.4	87.3
3.52	Mercury Wld Wts	10	+ ¼	...	..

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
516.80	Aegis Gp	62¼	+ ¼	0.4	20.1
61.10	Atlantic Telecom	121½	− 1		
1.63	BBB Design©	22	+ 1	..	32.5
57.30	Barbour Index	333	− 3	3.6	38.8
9.06	Birkdale	6½	− ½		
5.75	Black (A&C)	370	...	4.7	13.0
495.00	Blenheim Gp	501		2.8	16.5
31.50	Border TV	308½	+ 5	2.4	21.1
70.10	Bristol	430		4.2	19.7
8,975.20	BSkyB	516	− 10	1.3	35.5
59.80	CIA Gp	122½	− 5	2.2	14.2
471.50	Capital Radio†	573½		2.7	19.6
2,011.60	Carlton Comm	502	− 6½	2.5	17.0
134.90	Chrysalis	506	...	0.7	..

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
188.90	Bolsic Inv	281	+ ½		
42.00	Brewin Dolphin	190		4.9	11.8
641.30	Caledonia	769	+ 30	3.0	23.3
56.20	Camellia	2250	− 100	1.8	11.7
359.70	Cattles	256	+ 7½	3.5	17.2
10.09	Chelsfield	42½	+ 5		62.0
77.20	EFT Group	152½	...	1.8	16.2
175.70	EFM	568½	− 13½	5.5	25.0
67.10	Exco	54½	− 2	17.2	9.7
256.20	Henderson Adt	1170	+ 19½	4.8	17.2
716.00	Invesco▲	264	+ 9½	2.3	15.3
2.70	Investment Co	94½		2.8	24.5
89.60	Ivory Sime	282½	+ 2	3.7	21.1
2,193.10	Jardine Strat	208½	+ ¼	4.2	

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
1,989	Treas 7% 1997	100¼	+ ¹⁄₃₂	6.97	6.45
1,290	Treas 13¼% 1997	101	− ¹⁄₃₂	13.12	6.03
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	100⅝	− ¹⁄₃₂	10.41	6.13
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	101⅛		8.65	6.47
890	Exch 15% 1997	107⅜	+ ¹⁄₁₆	13.97	6.49
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	103¼	+ ¹⁄₁₆	9.43	6.55
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅝	+ ⅛	7.19	6.61
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	110⅛		12.72	6.72
935	Treas 15½% 1998	114⅜		13.51	6.70
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	109⅜	+ ¹⁄₁₆	10.97	6.82
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	105⅜	+ ⅛	9.04	6.84
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	111⅛	+ ⅛	11.00	6.81
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	108⅜	+ ⅛	9.71	6.86
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	98¼	+ ⅛	6.12	6.77
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	108⅛	+ ⅛	9.42	6.91
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	106⅛	+ ⅛	8.49	6.99
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝ †	+ ⅛	7.72	6.95
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	118⅜	+ ⅛	10.94	6.99
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	110⅝	+ ⅛	9.04	7.03
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	99⅝	+ ⅛	7.01	7.03
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	112	+ ⅛	8.71	7.16
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	104⅝ xd	+ ⅛	7.67	7.16
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	114⅜	+ ⅛	8.72	7.23
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116⅜	+ ⅛	9.90	7.06
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	84⅝	+ ⅛	4.14	6.00
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	113⅛	+ ⅛	8.40	7.38
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	97⅜	+ ⅛	6.95	7.22
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	107⅝ xd	+ ⅛	7.89	7.32
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	113⅛	+ ⅛	8.37	7.32
2,208	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅜	+ ⅛	9.73	7.24
11,700	Treas 7¾% 2006	101⅛ †	+ ⅛	7.42	7.35
3,930	Treas 7¾% 2006	102⅜	+ ⅛	7.55	7.36
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	103⅝	+ ⅛	7.76	7.26
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅝	+ ⅛	9.62	7.22
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	108	+ ⅛	7.87	7.40
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	112⅛	+ ⅛	8.03	7.44
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	104⅜	+ ⅛	7.69	7.43
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	88⅞	+ ⅛	7.03	7.55
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	112⅝	+ 1⅛	7.98	7.54
6,360	Treas 9% 2012	113⅜	+ 1⅛	7.95	7.55
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	83⅜	+ ⅛	6.61	7.29
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	104⅛	+ 1⅛	7.68	7.55
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	101⅜ xd	+ ⅛	7.61	7.54
12,500	Treas 8% 2015	104⅜ †	+ 1⅛	7.63	7.52
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	112⅜	+ 1⅛	7.81	7.58
1,000	Exch 12% 2013-17	143⅜	+ 1⅛	8.39	7.40
9,000	Tr 8% 2021	105⅜ xd	+ 1⅛	7.59	7.52
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	45⅜ xd	+ ⅛	7.69	...
475	Treas 2½%	32⅜	+ ⅛	7.77	
350	Consols 4%	51⅜	+ 1⅛	7.76	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4¾% 1998	113⅜	+ ⅛	4.32	2.29
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185⅜	− ⅛	2.50	3.17
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181⅜	+ ⅛	2.81	3.24
1,150	Treas IL 4¾% 2004	116⅜	+ ⅛	2.86	3.27
2,250	Treas IL 2% 2006	192⅜	+ 1⅛	3.02	3.32
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	173⅜	+ 1⅛	3.14	3.39
2,850	Treas IL 2½% 2011	179⅜	+ 1⅛	3.21	3.42
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	147⅜	+ ⅛	3.27	3.46
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	157⅜	+ 1⅛	3.32	3.60
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	150⅜	+ 1⅛	3.38	3.54
3,250	Treas IL 2½% 2024	125⅜	+ 1	3.40	3.53
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	123⅜	+ ⅛	3.40	3.54

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
20.30	Johnson Fry†	134½	− 8	3.7	6.0
1,089.40	Liberty Intl	388½	+ 1½	4.9	22.0
385.30	Lon Forfaiting	277½	− 1½	4.7	12.1
145.80	London Pacific	207½	− 10	8.3	10.0
118.90	Lon Scot Bk	96½	...	3.4	18.2
464.50	Man ED & F	178½	+ 13½	7.4	9.4
842.60	M & G	1132½	+ 98	3.8	21.0
2,225.90	MAM†	1219	+ 60	4.0	20.4
99.70	Nat Home Loans	113½	+ 7	2.7	
631.10	Perpetual†	2270	+ 93	3.1	16.8
1,278.30	Provident	470½	+ 3	4.0	17.7
88.70	Rathbone Bro	322½		4.1	14.4
158.40	Rutland Tst	52½		3.0	15.7
17.00	SEC Group	100¾	+ ½	5.1	20.3
48.10	S & U	436	− 2½	5.0	10.5
6.47	Towry Law	42			
3.97	Tom Hldgs	4½	− ½	...	...

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,376.30	Brit Biotech	210	− 18½	..	..
97.70	Cantab Pharms	630	+ 40		
384.80	Celltech	402½	+ 5	..	...
270.40	Chiroscience	330	− 36	...	...
227.60	Cortecs	178	− 6½	..	...
34,678.00	Glaxo Well	979½	+ 2	3.8	14.0
310.30	ML Laboratories©	214	− 55½		55.9
898.60	Medeva	256½	+ 5½	2.1	14.5
66.10	Peptide Thera	195	− 1½	..	...
487.20	Scotia	681	+ 11		
113.90	Shire Pharms	187	− 7		28.4
272.00	SkyePharma	78½	− 5½		
22,488.70	SmithBeecht	819	+ 59½	2.3	29.6
33.90	Therap Anti Inc	438½	− 14		
134.40	Vanguard	542½	− 15		
15,530.80	Zeneca	1640	− 50½	2.5	35.7

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
30.20	AG Holdings▲	144	− ½	5.3	11.7
197.40	API	702¼	− 2½	1.9	23.3
17.20	App Hldgs	65	− 21½	..	..
1,317.30	Arjo Wiggins	189	+ 2	5.8	..
20.90	Aspen Comm©	135	− 5	3.8	10.8
37.80	Bath Press	17½		3.1	10.4
172.80	Bemrose	489½	+ 1	4.5	13.6
153.10	Blagden	211½	+ 1½	1.4	17.9
822.40	Bowater Inc	2249½	+ 49½	..	...
233.40	Bowater Intl	326½	− 1	1.8	25.8
286.30	Br Polythene†	731½		2.9	15.7
3.05	Br Thornton	19	+ ½	..	
212.50	Brilton Grpt	158	+ 5	2.5	13.0
980.20	Bunzl†	221	+ 3	3.4	13.7
82.30	Capital Inds▼	183½	...	3.7	12.7
28.90	Cropper (James)	349	− 20½	1.5	12.7
1,307.10	De La Rue†	582½		5.2	14.9
8.53	Delyn Group#	75		3.4	14.9
46.20	Dolphin Pack	197½	+ 8	3.7	16.1
32.40	Fairway Group	80½	− 1	6.1	13.2
94.20	Ferguson Intl	232½		7.1	12.3
41.80	Filofax	139½		3.2	10.3
73.90	Inveresk	149½	− 1	5.2	12.6
102.60	Jarvis Porter†	219½	− 2½	4.0	13.0
423.60	Low & Bonar	427	− 2½	4.0	11.9
152.00	MY Holdings	112½	− 2½	2.7	..
220.90	Macfarlane	177	− 4½	2.8	14.9
16.90	Mabo Gp	55½	− ½	8.1	7.1
48.70	Polybrion	382½	− 14	2.1	21.7
76.70	Physar	180½		5.7	16.7
36.30	Porter Chadburn†	30	− ¼	1.8	10.9
1,708.70	REXAM	338½	+ 2½	5.2	16.2
479.40	St Ives Grpt	477½	− ½	2.8	17.5
781.90	Sappi	528¼	+ 7½	0.7	
2.23	Sefil	3	..		
78.00	Sidlaw	113½	− 1	2.2	.
894.50	Smith David	315½	+ 1	3.8	10.4
1,776.40	Smurfit (Jeff)†	185	− ½	2.9	5.8
1.77	Sonict	80½		4.2	9.1

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
537.30	Lloyds Chem†	513½		2.5	19.1
1,140.10	MFI	193	+ 4	2.8	22.7
14,342.00	Marks Spencer†	507½	+ 17	2.5	22.0
322.30	Menzies (John)	573½		2.0	14.3
19.20	Merchant Retail	22½	− ½		36.6
208.60	Moss Bros	195½	+ 12½	2.0	
2,202.90	Next†	589		2.2	
9.74	Oliver (G)	38½			
292.90	Ottakar Intl	546½	− 1	2.7	
16.60	Partridge Fine	75	...	4.9	12.7
15.20	OS Hldgs	38½		5.1	
98.50	Rosebys	227½	− 2	2.1	20.8
1,419.10	Sears†	93	− 3	5.3	75.8
74.70	Signet Group	25½			
1,195.40	Smith WH	423	− 12½	4.6	
355.40	Sothebys	1047½	+ 15	1.8	
1,039.90	Storehouse	261½	− 11½	3.6	
91.30	Stylo	153½		3.8	23.9
124.90	T & S Stores†	173½	− 1½	5.3	11.1
1,200.80	Thorn	277	− 19	6.1	24.6
95.90	The Rack	187	..	1.9	19.6
6.47	Unless & South	2½			25.9
3,739.60	Vendome	536	− 21½	2.4	19.7
37.80	WEW Group	28	− 1		
260.80	Wickes#	88		2.8	
8.79	Wld of Leather	68½	− 1	3.1	
91.20	Wyevale	235	− ½	3.1	17.5

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,638.50	ADT	1180	+ 20		
309.20	AEA Tech	388½	− 7	2.4	16.6
187.80	Alpha Airpts†	112	− 2½	5.6	14.3
15.20	Alphameric	35½	− ½		13.9
324.30	Amey WS	352½	+ 4	2.1	26.4
34.30	BNB Rest	159½	− 1	5.2	8.6
95.20	BPP	389½		4.0	17.4
53.70	BSM	192½	..	4.6	12.7
439.70	BTG	2512½	− 25	0.2	.
142.00	Borland©	500			
43.60	Brit Data Mgt	174½	+ 1	3.9	21.0
11.80	Brooks Service	92		4.5	14.7
251.00	Business Post	456	+ 1	2.4	25.2
546.50	CMG	852½	+ 7½	0.9	38.4
337.40	CRT Grpt	276½	+ ½	1.9	35.2
17.80	Caird Gp	680	− 2½	0.6	5.1
272.40	Capita Group	466½	+ 12½	1.2	38.6
3.03	Chemex	7½	− ½	2.5	13.0
968.20	Chubb Sec	343	− 1	3.1	17.0
249.10	Corp Services	168	+ 1½	3.3	20.5
27.10	Credit Clearing	55½		4.8	17.9
46.00	DCS Gpt	238½	..	0.8	30.2
308.70	Davis Service	224	− 17	5.4	12.1
187.90	Delphi	652½	+ 15	0.9	22.7
27.80	Dudley Jenkins	164	+ 1	2.7	22.5
12.50	EW Fact	88½	+ 3	3.0	18.5
16.90	El Data Prc	64½	− 3	4.2	9.3
140.30	FI Group	472½	+ 1	1.1	41.2
2,211.50	Hays†	533½	+ 13½	1.9	23.9
245.60	Hogg Robinson	288	+ 2½	4.1	12.7
162.00	JBA Hldgst	475	..	1.1	23.4
134.40	Johnson Clean	271	− 3	5.2	11.3
32.70	Kalamazoo	113½	− 4	4.7	11.6
63.40	Kewill Sys	489½	+ 51	2.2	13.5
23.30	LBMS©	91	− 14	..	
8.05	Laser-Scan	25			
32.50	Lavendon	152½	+ 3	2.8	11.9
88.30	Leigh	121½	− ½	4.0	
597.50	Logica	848½	− 4½	1.2	31.7
77.80	Lynx Hldgs†	79½	− 1½	2.8	
40.80	MDIS	39	+ 1	3.8	
63.10	MMT Comp	535	+ 3	2.1	22.0
45.50	MR Group	81½		5.5	15.1
98.00	Macro 4	497½		6.1	13.2
1,433.60	Manpower	1928½	− 90½	0.4	
76.30	Menzies Abbey	89½	+ 1½		72.0
136.70	Micro Focus	905	+ 82½		
58.70	Microgen	148½		6.4	10.1
644.20	Mitie	992	+ ½	1.3	22.6
124.50	MITIE Gp	191½	+ 9	0.9	30.4
20.40	Newo Group	37½	..	4.7	9.8
28.70	Orbis	40	− ½	2.9	15.6

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,570.40	Anglian	562½	− 1	8.8	6.9
1,063.60	Hyder	741	− 11½	7.0	10.8
141.90	Hyder Cnv Prf	167½	+ 1½	9.5	
199.00	Mid Kent Hdgs	637½	+ 40	5.9	10.4
2,413.30	Severn Trent	654	− 18½	6.5	7.1
167.40	South Staffs	2837½	+ 37½	3.6	13.9
744.70	South West†	580	− 12½	7.9	6.5
2,171.40	Thames†	577½	− 7	6.6	7.5
3,097.50	Utd Utilities	600	− 17½	7.4	10.5
758.50	Wessex	351	− 10½	5.4	7.0
1,401.20	Yorkshire	603½	− 1½	6.0	8.9

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.05	Abacus Recruit	84¾	...		24.1
6.14	Cafe Inns	180	+ ¼	1.7	13.9
28.30	Country Gdns	153½	− 14	1.1	15.8
106.80	Dawson Hdgs	1912½	− 12½	2.1	16.8
170.90	Freepages	44½	− 1		...
58.30	Megalomedia	100	+ 1½		56.1
37.20	Memory Corp	67½	− 1		
31.50	Old English Pubs	178	+ 1½	1.0	55.9
114.10	Peel City	470	+ 42½		
84.20	Prism Rail	455	+ 35		
142.50	Southern News	581	+ 24½	3.8	16.8
13.30	Southern Vectis	69½	− 1	3.4	16.1
40.00	Surrey Fr Invst	305	+ 1	0.0	
242.30	Trocadero	48½	+ 4½		

Source: FT Information

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Acal, Allen, Ascot Holdings, BTG, BTP, Columbus Group, Eurodollar Holdings, Omi Int, Oriflame Int, Scottish & Newcastle, Eliza Tinsley Group, Tops Estates. **Finals:** H Young Hldgs, Stakis, Toy Options. **Economics:** UK November provisional M0 money supply, UK Nationwide house price index, EU finance ministers meet.

TOMORROW

Interims: Bath Press Group, Belhaven Brewery Group, Border Television, East Surrey Hdgs, Firth Hldgs, Fulcrum Inv, Hazlewood Foods, Thomas Locker Holdings, Marston, Thompson & Evershed, Morris Ashby, Photobition Group, Siebe, St James Beach Hotels, Wellman, Wessex Water. **Finals:** Barcom, IOC International, Scottish Radio Hldgs. **Economics:** UK November Halifax house price index, US Treasury announces size of short-term t-bills.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Caffyns, Hadleigh, Northern Investors, Orbus, ScottishPower, Sterling Publishing, TGI, Thorn Lighting, Victoria Carpet. **Finals:** Bass, Blick, Carlton. **Economics:** Bank of England gilt auction, UK/US "open skies" talks resume, US October housing completions.

THURSDAY

Interims: Airsprung Furniture, Courts, Expro Int, Gibbon Group, Great Universal Stores, Philip Harris, IWP Int, Northern Electric, Northern Ireland Elec, Plysu, Racal Electronics, Syltone. **Finals:** Alvis, Denby Gp, Dewhurst, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, MEPC, Ransomes, Sheriff Hldgs. **Economics:** UK October housing starts, UK SMMT November new car registrations, UK CBI quarterly distributive trades survey, meeting of Bundesbank.

FRIDAY

Interims: Brasway, General Electric Co, Samuel Heath. **Finals:** Bearing Power Int. **Economics:** UK October industrial output, UK October manufacturing output, UK Q3 construction output. US November non-farm payrolls, US November unemployment.

COMPANIES | MICHAEL CLARK

Carlton broadcasts an advance

After the Westcountry acquisition, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton, is to unveil results

CARLTON: Fresh from its £85 million acquisition of Westcountry Television, the group is back in the news this week when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. These are expected to confirm that Carlton is, indeed, now a leading player in the independent television network with an *estimated 34 per cent of* the advertising market.

Pre-tax profit estimates range from £295 million to £300 million (£248.5 million). Earnings are likely to have grown 4p to 28.7p, while analysts are forecasting a 13 per cent increase in the payout to 10.6p net. Television advertising has shown signs of recovery this year although the group's London midweek franchise will have lost some ground to LWT. Once again Quantel will provide the power for the group's performance which will help to drive up profits at its video and sound products division by about a third.

BASS: Still celebrating the Chancellor's decision to freeze the duty on beer in the Budget, the group is expected to weigh in with a useful set of full-year figures on Wednesday. These should show pre-tax profits up from £599 million to between £660 million and £670 million. The main improvement should come from the brewing side. Earnings are expected to have grown 12 per cent to 48.7p, while shareholders should be rewarded with an 8 per cent rise in the payout to 24.5p.

HANSON: Full-year figures on Thursday are likely to have little relevance to the current state of play. These will be the last figures from the group in its old form. Hanson is midway through its demerger programme, having already divested itself of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits ranging from £1.17 billion to £1.19 billion (£1.31 billion). The City will be looking for further details of the energy division flotation. Earnings will be down and an unchanged dividend of 12p is likely.

GRAND METROPOLITAN: Brokers will be looking to full-year figures on Thursday for evidence of the expected pick-up in the spirits industry. Some expect pre-tax profits to reach the billion mark, although estimates start at about £968 million (£911 million). Earnings are forecast to rise by about 6 per cent to 32.1p while the payout should rise by 7 per cent to 15.95p.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE: A decline in profits at Center Parcs is likely to provide the focus of interim figures today, although brokers still expect a useful increase in profitability as the benefits of cost savings at Courage and the refurbishment of its Chef & Brewer chain should start to feed through. At the pre-tax level brokers' estimates range from £188 million to £195 million (£159 million). Savings at Courage are likely to be £18 million, while a 9 per cent decline in the contribution from its leisure activities is envisaged. Earnings growth of 15 per cent is likely as is an 8 per cent increase in the dividend to 7p.

GEC: A fairly pedestrian performance is expected when the group reports interim figures on Friday. But it will be the City's first opportunity to tackle the new chief executive, George Simpson, on his future strategy for the group. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £415 million (£402 million). Some estimates pitch the figure at £420 million. Marconi and GEC-Alsthom have secured some useful contracts, but recent figures from Alcatel, GEC's trading partner, revealed that sales at GEC-Alsthom were down 18 per cent in the third quarter. The final figure could also be hurt by currency fluctuations.

SCOTTISHPOWER: Interim figures on Wednesday will contain only two months' contribution from Southern Water, its recent acquisition, but brokers will be anxious to establish what cost savings can be achieved. Initial estimates suggest a contribution to operating profits from Southern of about £35 million. Overall group profits are expected to grow at the pre-tax level *from £127 million to about £177* million, pushing earnings up about 17 per cent at 13.3p. The figures will be boosted by a full contribution from Manweb.

GUS: Half-year figures from Great Universal Stores on Thursday will be held back by pressure in both sales and margins of its home-shopping division. Currency fluctuations will also take their toll on its overseas retail business. UBS, the broker, is forecasting a small downturn in profits at the pre-tax level from £237 million to £232 million, with earnings per share down 1 per cent at 15.3p. Hard on the heels of the Experian acquisition last month, these figures will focus attention on basics. Last year's performance was distorted by a number of one-offs making comparisons difficult. The problems at mail order need to be tackled and UBS does not rule out the possibility of GUS acquiring *Freemans from Sears.*

NORTHERN ELECTRIC: Still struggling to fend off the unwanted attentions of CalEngery, the group has brought forward its interim report to Thursday. The aim is to emphasise the value contained in the company although pre-tax profits are likely to be down from £58.7 million to £48.9 million, leaving earnings per share down from 40.5p to 37.4p. Despite the setback, shareholders can expect a 7 per cent increase in the payout to 12.4p.

NIE: Northern Ireland Electricity's decision to take up the case of pricing policy with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission means that Thursday's results will be virtually meaningless. Pre-tax profits should be down about £1 million to £46.5 million, while earnings will show a small improvement. The reward for shareholders will be a 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 5.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Interest rate rift emerges

The week begins with a key meeting today of European Union finance ministers in Brussels, of particular interest to the financial markets because of signs of a rift emerging on interest rates between France and Germany late last week. The French problem is likely to be highlighted with figures for unemployment in October, coinciding with the Ecofin meeting, expected to show that French unemployment remains at 12.6 per cent. *Also today, Britain sees publication of* November M0 money supply figures and the latest purchasing managers' survey, expected to confirm that manufacturing industry is continuing to grow.

The next focus comes on Thursday which, in Britain, sees the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, but also, of key interest, testimony before the Treasury Select Committee on the Budget by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Given the proximity of the next monetary meeting on December 11, the Governor's remarks will be analysed even more than usual for any clues on his attitude towards interest rates post-Budget. Also scheduled on Thursday are German unemployment figures and a Bundesbank council meeting.

On Friday the focus will be on UK industrial production figures for October. They are predicted to show a rise of 0.5 per cent in the month, according to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International. Manufacturing output is expected to rise 0.4 per cent. This would give year-on-year growth in manufacturing of only 0.4 per cent, a small improvement on the 0.2 *per cent annual rate in September.* On the same day, November non-farm payrolls are released for America along with other labour market data. These data will be seized upon as an indicator of whether the US economy has picked up steam in the fourth quarter. The non-farm payrolls are forecast to have risen by 175,000 compared with October's increase of 210,000.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Grand Metropolitan. Compass: **Hold** Scottish & Newcastle. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Grand Metropolitan, Watson and Philip, Hay & Robertson, Hazlewood Foods; **Hold** Booker. *The Observer*: **Avoid** Barclays, ScottishPower. *Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** Asda, Amersham International. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Associated British Ports, Revelations Piccadilly.

Chancery Division | Law Report December 2 1996 | Court of Appeal

Acquiescence destroys claim

Film Investors Overseas Services SA and Another v Home Video Channel Ltd, t/a The Adult Channel

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment November 12]

The owner of copyright in films who was aware that one of its licensees had plans to broadcast the films outside the area specified in the licence agreement and had subsequently done so, but did not complain or take any other action to stop them, had acquiesced and was therefore not entitled to claim an infringement of copyright.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an action for infringement of copyright and breach of contract brought by the plaintiffs, Film Investors Overseas SA, a Liberian company, and Teleworld Communications Ltd, against the defendants, the Home Video Channel Ltd, trading as The Adult Channel.

Mr Paul Dickens for the plaintiffs; Mr John P. Baldwin, QC and Mr James Mellor for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the plaintiffs claimed to own, or to be exclusive licensees of the copyright of several films wich were erotic in content and were intended for adult viewing.

The defendants operated a television broadcasting service, the Adult Channel, which was shown between midnight and 4am. It began transmissions in February 1992 and initially was directed at the United Kingdom market. Broadcasts were either by cable or domestic satellite dishes. Transmissions by satellite were encrypted so that they could only be viewed by those who had a decoding device operated by a "smart card". The defendants sold smart cards to its subscribers.

In April 1992 the plaintiffs granted to the defendants a licence during the licence period to exhibit films on distribution systems in the licence area as part of a pay television service. The licence area was defined as "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Eire".

Transmissions by the defendants was by Astra satellite which was in geostationary orbit above Europe and its footprint extended over most of continental Europe as well as the licence area defined in the agreement. Once a programme had been broadcast to the satellite it could be received anywhere within the footprint by anyone who *had the necessary decoding device.*

By early 1993 the defendants were aware that the programme was being watched in Europe, either by use of pirated cards, or genuine cards which had been sold outside the area for which they had been issued.

Around February 1993 the defendants decided to sell smart cards in Europe, partly in order to put the unlawful use on a lawful basis and provide for a network of authorised dealers in those countries who could control use, but also because the marginal costs of extending their service in that way were very small and they expected the exercise to be profitable.

Sale of decoders in Europe began in April. The plaintiffs' films continued to be shown and invoices for new films were submitted and paid up until November 1993. About 140 films were supplied under the agreement.

The plaintiffs' complaint in essence was that the defendants breached the terms of the agreement or infringed their copyright by arranging for sale of decoders outside the licence area.

The defendants denied any breach and said that in any event the sale of decoders in Europe was done with the plaintiffs' express consent or that they acquiesced in the arrangement. Both sides called evidence in support of their cases.

The question to be decided was whether the plaintiffs were precluded by express or implied acquiescence from complaining of the exhibition of their films outside the licensed area.

The principle was explained by Mr Justice Oliver in *Taylor Fashions Ltd v Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society* ([1982] 1 QB 133, 151) that "it would be unconscionable for a party to be permitted to deny that which, knowingly or unknowingly, he has allowed or encouraged another to assume to his detriment".

That being the test, his Lordship was satisfied that at least from the middle of 1993, the defence was made out. The plaintiffs's chief executive and managing director knew, or strongly suspected that his films were being shown on the Adult Channel but he chose deliberately to do nothing about it because it suited him to do so.

He was aware from March 1993 that the defendants had plans for Europe. He was being requested for lists of his European titles. He was also aware from other licensees that the defendants were broadcasting some films in Europe.

Had he been concerned about those developments he would have asked for further information or made his own negotiations There was no written complaint of any kind to the defendants.

The true position, his Lordship believed, was that the plaintiffs were content for the defendants to show the films in Europe because that offered the best prospect of increasing subscriber numbers and entitling them to royalty payments under the agreement.

Therefore the defence of acquiescence was well founded and it was unnecessary to deal with the alternatives, but his Lordship went on to comment on the construction of the agreement.

The plaintiffs suggested that there was no right to use the Astra satellite at all, given that its footprint extended beyond the licensed area. On the other hand the defendants submitted that the plaintiffs had no legal basis in the UK for restricting transmissions received in Europe and that a grant of a licence in the UK could not be read as implying a denial of rights elsewhere.

His Lordship said that both those lines of argument seemed unrealistic. It was part of the essential background of this agreement that there would be transmission by satellite direct to home. Both parties knew that the way that would be done would be by the Astra satellite, which in this country was the conventional method for such transmissions.

It was also part of the background understanding that broadcasts would be confined to the licence area by use of the conventional machinery of encryption and sale of decoder cards.

It was entirely appropriate that there should be an implied term in the agreement that the defendants would not sell or distribute decoders to those who they knew or had reason to believe would use them for the purpose of viewing films outside the territory.

There was nothing onerous in the condition as drafted. It required the defendants to know, or positively to have reason to believe, that those to whom they were selling would use it outside the territory. It did not require them to control unlawful use or pirating.

However, the plaintiffs' other suggested implied term that "the defendants would take all reasonable steps to prevent films being viewed by persons outside the territory" was not acceptable. It left wholly unclear what steps, positive or negative, the defendants would be obliged to perform.

Solicitors: The Simkins Partnership; Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford.

Damages for structural defect

Gardner and Another v Marsh and Parsons (a Firm) and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment November 13]

The purchasers of a maisonette with a serious structural defect which their surveyor had negligently failed to spot were entitled to damages against the surveyor based on the difference between the value of the property without the defects and its value with the defects at the date of purchase.

The fact that the defect had subsequently been rectified at their landlord's expense in accordance with the terms of the lease should not in the circumstances of the case deprive the purchasers of their damages because the landlord's action did not flow from the original negligence.

The Court of Appeal soheld, Lord Justice Peter Gibson dissenting, dismissing an appeal by the first and second defendants, Marsh and Parsons and Sean Dyson, from a decision of Judge Byrt, QC, in the Mayor's and City of London Court on February 27, 1995 awarding the plaintiffs James Piers Gardner and Penelope Helen Gardner £29,000 for the defendants' admitted negligence.

Mr Adrian Brunner, QC and Mr James Palmer for the defendants; Mr Edwin Johnson for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs had in June 1985 been interested in buying a converted maisonette at 8 Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, London, subject to a satisfactory survey. Unfortunately the second defendant had carried out the survey negligently, having failed to spot a serious structural defect. The purchase of a long lease was completed on September 11, 1985, a covenant in the lease providing that the landlords, Guidedale Ltd, were responsible for structural repairs.

The structural defect, caused by stresses resulting from the adding of a floor at roof level when the property was converted in 1985, did not come to light until 1988 when the plaintiffs sought unsuccessfully to sell. It was remedied by Guidedale in 1990.

The judge had assessed the *measure of damages as the difference* between the value of the property without the defects and its value with the defects at the date of purchase, following a line of authority starting with *Philips v Ward* ([1956] 1 WLR 471). On the basis of expert evidence he set the value of the property with the defect in 1985 at £85,000.

The defendants had contended that if the defect had been discovered in 1985 and drawn to Guidedale's attention, they would have remedied it at their own expense and there would consequently have been no diminution in the maisonette's value and no entitlement to more than nominal damages. The defendants' second ground of appeal was that even if they were wrong on the first point, the plaintiffs avoided their loss by reason of the repair undertaken by Guidedale in 1990.

The judge had rejected that submission saying that it was not relevant that the risk had subsequently been eliminated at the cost of someone else.

His Lordship reviewed *Philips v Ward, Perry v Sidney Phillips & Son* ([1982] 1 WLR 1297) and *Watts v Morrow* ([1991] 4 All ER 937). It was intrinsic to the principles laid down in those cases that, in assessing the market price of a property in its defective condition, a hypothetical sale of the property in that state was assumed to have taken place.

It was basically unsound to proceed on the basis that in the particular circumstances of the instant case no sale would have taken place until after the defect had been remedied.

Mr Brunner's scenario did not *accord with the actual facts of the* case, seeing that the plaintiffs did in fact purchase the maisonette while still in its defective state, which was a natural consequence flowing from Mr Dyson's negligence. Nor was the inference Mr Brunner contended for supported by the evidence. The first ground of appeal failed.

His Lordship reviewed the authorities bearing on the second ground of appeal. *British Westinghouse v The Underground Electric Railways* ([1912] AC 673), *Hussey v Eels* ([1990] 2 QB 227) and *Jones v Just* ((1868) LR 3 QB 197).

Mr Brunner had submitted that, the plaintiffs having themselves adopted the reasonable and prudent course of instigating the repairs, and those repairs having been undertaken with the result that the defect was rectified, the plaintiffs had suffered no loss, and were no worse off, seeing that the premises had been restored to their full value well before the date of trial. He had recognised the difficulty of reconciling that formulation with the authorities.

Mr Johnson had submitted that where as a result of the defendant's negligence a plaintiff suffered loss in the form of diminution of value of the property, that loss was not avoided by the subsequent conduct of the plaintiff unless such conduct flowed inexorably from the original transaction and could properly be seen as part of a continuous course of dealing with the situation in which the plaintiff originally found himself.

The landlord's action in repairing the property was collateral and res inter alios acta, a thing done between other parties. Moreover, it did not flow inexorably from Mr Dyson's negligent valuation and was in no sense part of a continuous course of dealing.

Lord Justice Mustill in *Hussey v Eels* had warned against laying down potentially unreliable statements of principle in the field of damages. The issue was primarily one of fact.

In his Lordship's judgment, having regard to the intervening events and to the long interval of time, the repairs executed in 1990 were not part of a continuous transaction of which the purchase of the lease as a result of Mr Dyson's negligence was the inception. Furthermore, the repairs undertaken by Guidedale were res inter alios acta and therefore collateral to Mr Dyson's negligence.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered a dissenting judgment and Lord Justice Pill delivered a judgement concurring with Lord Justice Hirst.

Solicitors: Lloyd Cooper; Stephenson Harwood.

£1,000 surety required from applicant

Regina v Croydon Justices, Ex parte Morgan

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Butterfield

[Judgment November 14]

The fact that an applicant for a case stated was legally aided with a nil contribution and had no disposable assets did not mean that he should not be required by justices, as a condition of stating the case, to enter into a recognisance with a surety conditioned to prosecute the appeal without delay.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing the application of Neil Morgan for judicial review of the refusal by Croydon Justices on July 14, 1995 to refuse to state a case under section 114 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 unless the applicant entered into a recognisance of £1,000 with a surety in a similar amount conditioned to prosecute the appeal without delay.

Mr Jonathan Whitfield for the applicant; Mr Robin Howard for the justices.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that one had to bear in mind that the requirement to enter into a recognisance did not require anyone to produce any money until the time when the conditioned events occurred.

Section 120(3) of the 1980 Act provided for the situation where, even if the recognisance was forfeited and the applicant found himself without assets, the justices could deal with him according to his circumstances then.

M V Yorke Motors (a Firm) v Edwards ([1982] 1 WLR 444) was not a criminal case but a civil case where the defendant sought leave to defend and the court was only prepared to give leave on condition that he paid into court a certain sum.

That case was correctly summarised in *The Supreme Court Practice 1997* (Vol 1, p165) which stated:

"It would be a wrong exercise of discretion to grant the defendant leave to defend on condition that he should pay into court a sum which he would never be able to pay, for that would be tantamount to giving judgment for the plaintiff ... But" and this was relevant "the fact that the defendant does not have a house of his own ... that he is unemployed and in receipt of supplementary benefit or that he is legally aided with a nil contribution, does not mean that he cannot find a sum by way of security as a condition of being granted leave to defend, since he may be able to raise capital from friends, business associates or relatives..."

That was a case different from the present but the principle which the House of Lords set out was that, in this type of case, it was for the applicant to satisfy the court that he was indigent.

In the present case there were no grounds on which the court could interfere and the decision of the justices was within the area of their discretion. It was open to the justices, having heard the applicant at his trial and formed a view of his truthfulness, to conclude that the requirement of a recognisance and surety was a sensible one.

Mr Justice Butterfield agreed.

Solicitors: Paul Black, Haywards Heath; Stonehams, Croydon.

Director not necessarily unfit

In re a Company, No 004803 of 1996

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment October 9]

A director of an insolvent company, whose recommendations as to necessary economies had been disregarded by its controlling directors, was not necessarily to be treated as "unfit to be concerned in the management of a company" within section 6(1)(b) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 if he failed to resign.

Mr Justice Chadwick so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from an order of District Judge White in Truro County Court on July 26, 1996, whereby he disqualified, under that Act, two of a company's directors from acting as directors of any company for three and two years, while refusing to disqualify Mr Taylor, the third director.

Mr Jeremy Bamford for the secretary of state; Mr Richard Millett for the director.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK said that Mr Taylor, employed as a bookkeeper at £8,000 a year, had also been a 10 per cent shareholder and a director of a company in the business of letting holiday cottages.

In October 1991 a letter of concern from its bankers had led to recommendations by Mr Taylor for specific economies, which, according to its auditor whose evidence the district judge had accepted, would have given it a reasonable chance of trading out of its difficulties but the other directors had refused to implement them. In September 1993 the company had gone into voluntary liquidation with a deficiency in excess of £100,000.

Before the district judge, as before his Lordship, the secretary of state had submitted that Mr Taylor ought, at the latest by December 1992, to have resigned his directorship.

As to that, the district judge had *found that although there was* ground for some criticism of Mr Taylor, his salary was no more than that any junior non-director staff member might expect and he stood to gain nothing extra, as director or shareholder, from continuance of trading and was, in all but formal title, an employee unable to influence the management of the company.

No doubt by continuing to act as a director of an insolvent company Mr Taylor had exposed himself to potential liability under section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and would have been wiser to resign; but in considering disqualification proceedings, the court was directed by section 9(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 to have regard in particular to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of that Act.

It was clear from the district judge's judgment that he had properly addressed the question of Mr Taylor's personal responsibility for all relevant matters. He had had the advantage of seeing and hearing both Mr Taylor and the company's auditor so it would not be appropriate for his Lordship to interfere.

His Lordship's own remarks in *Secretary of State v Arif and Others* ([1996] BCC 586) were not here in point, since they had been uttered in the context of a failure by directors to fulfil their statutory obligations to keep accounting records.

A director who, believing there was no reasonable prospect of avoiding insolvency, protested against further trading, was entitled to remain on the board and to use such influence as he had to try to bring it to an end.

However, if there came a point at which his attendance at board meetings became pointless, because he had to recognise that his co-directors took no account of what he said, it might well become appropriate to ask why he remained: and if his only conceivable purpose was to draw his director's fees or to preserve his status, a court might well conclude him so lacking in appreciation of a director's duties as to be unfit to be concerned in any company's management.

The district judge had not found that to be so in Mr Taylor's case and his decision had to be upheld.

Solicitors: Anstey Sargent & Probert, Exeter; Dickins Hopgood Chidley, Hungerford.

هكذا عن الأصل

Halifax in the fray for car cover

By Marianne Curphey

THE price war in car insurance is set to intensify as the Halifax building society, the dominant force in personal mortgages, launches a product.

Halifax has 15 million borrowers and savers and aims to offer them car insurance from today via a joint venture with Churchill Insurance. The partnership will give Churchill, a rival to the telephone insurer Direct Line, the backing it needs in an increasingly competitive motor market.

"It is not quite an admission of defeat, but it is a change of strategy," said Paul Goodhind, insurance analyst with NatWest markets. "Churchill should benefit from the deal because Halifax customers are likely to be less price-sensitive than the market as a whole."

Motor rates are now up to 30 per cent lower than two years ago. More than 50 telephone insurers now compete for a finite amount of business.

Halifax will advertise its new service via branches. Churchill will handle telephone enquires and quotations at its base.

Churchill has signalled a wish to form partnerships. It lost in the bidding for Pet Plan to Cornhill Insurance.

Outcry as utilities target children in battle for gas sales

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE gas industry will this week face increasing pressure to introduce a code of conduct after a fresh wave of complaints about selling tactics, including marketing that targeted children. Concern is growing over aggressive selling as a division has emerged between the gas regulator and the Office of Fair Trading on doorstep sales.

London Electricity and Total Gas, who operate a joint venture, are believed to have backed down from a school marketing campaign after protests from parents. The Gas Consumers Council called for an immediate and enforceable code of conduct after London and Total offered a school in Dorset £7.50 for every pupil whose parents switched to their supply.

The controversy over the school incentives comes as complaints about aggressive selling grows in Dorset and Avon, and Kent and Sussex — the next two areas where households will be able to buy gas competitively next year.

Last week Eastern Natural Gas was forced to dismiss an agent and suspend another after complaints about misleading information from people in Dorset and Kent.

But yesterday Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, told *The Money Programme* on BBC2 that customers wanted doorstep selling and that, with a code of practice, she would be happy to see the practice spread nationwide. However, John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, disagreed. Mr Bridgeman, whose job it is to oversee marketing, said he "remained to be convinced of the need for doorstep selling in an unfamiliar marketplace with many vulnerable consumers, particularly if this is done on a commission basis".

The OFT threatened SwebGas, the offshoot of the regional electricity company serving the South West, with legal action after more than 3,000 complaints over its selling in the South West — the first area to have competition for domestic gas. The complaints mainly involved customers who said they did not realise that they were signing contracts. SwebGas agreed to change its marketing approach.

The Gas Forum, the gas trade body, tried to set up a code of conduct earlier this year but the OFT refused to support it because it did not have adequate penalties for breaches and because there was no arbitration or conciliation offered for disputes.

Some 500,000 homes in the South West can now switch from British Gas to rival companies. The choice will extend to 520,000 in Dorset and Avon in February 900,000 in Kent and Sussex in March.

Letters, page 21

Lord MacLaurin orchestrated the success at Tesco that has won the vote of top managers

Tesco tops 'most admired' list

TESCO'S innovative approach, which helped it to overtake J Sainsbury, its arch-rival, has also made it the company most admired by top managers of other companies in the annual survey for *Management Today* (Graham Searjeant writes).

The superstore group, led by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, replaces Cadbury Schweppes, which still ranks fifth among 260 companies in 26 industry groups, each judged by their peers.

Burford, the property group run by Nigel Wray, comes in second, followed by Next and Marks & Spencer. Spirax-Sarco, the engineering group, leaps from nowhere to ninth place. Eurotunnel, unsurprisingly, is least admired, sinking from penultimate spot last year. Kwik Save, the retail group, ranks 259 with Sears, the floundering shoe empire, and House of Fraser stores only slightly higher.

Berisford suitor backs off

Berisford, owner of Magnet, the DIY chain, is today expected to announce that a potential bid approach for the company has ended inconclusively.

Shares in the company rose 30p to 151p when news of the approach was confirmed, causing the unnamed suitor to take fright.

Job losses

More than 500 jobs, mainly administrative, are expected to go from Southern Water on Wednesday when ScottishPower reveals cost savings worth more than £40 million for the company, along with its own interim results.

Mining profits

Tower Colliery, Wales's last deep mine, made £4 million profit in its second year under the ownership of its shareholding miners. The 300 men will get a 5.7 per cent pay rise and £500 Christmas bonus.

Tax concession

The Inland Revenue has agreed to give small companies advance clearance as to whether their shares qualify for reinvestment relief on capital gains tax.

Strand sale expected

By Sarah Cunningham and Jason Nissé

THE Greeting Store Group, run by Stuart Greenwood, who resigned as finance director of ailing Spring Ram in 1993, is set this week to buy Strand Libraries, which has 73 stores and is the fourth-largest card retailer behind Clintons.

Strand has been in administration since May. Greeting Store, which owns about 20 greeting card shops in the North, is expected to pay about £4 million. Arthur Andersen, Strand's administrator, has closed 16 of the chain's worst-performing stores and intends to sell the business as a going concern. It had been expected to sell just its assets.

The sale will need court approval, which is likely this week. The main creditor of Strand is Hallmark, the greeting cards manufacturer.

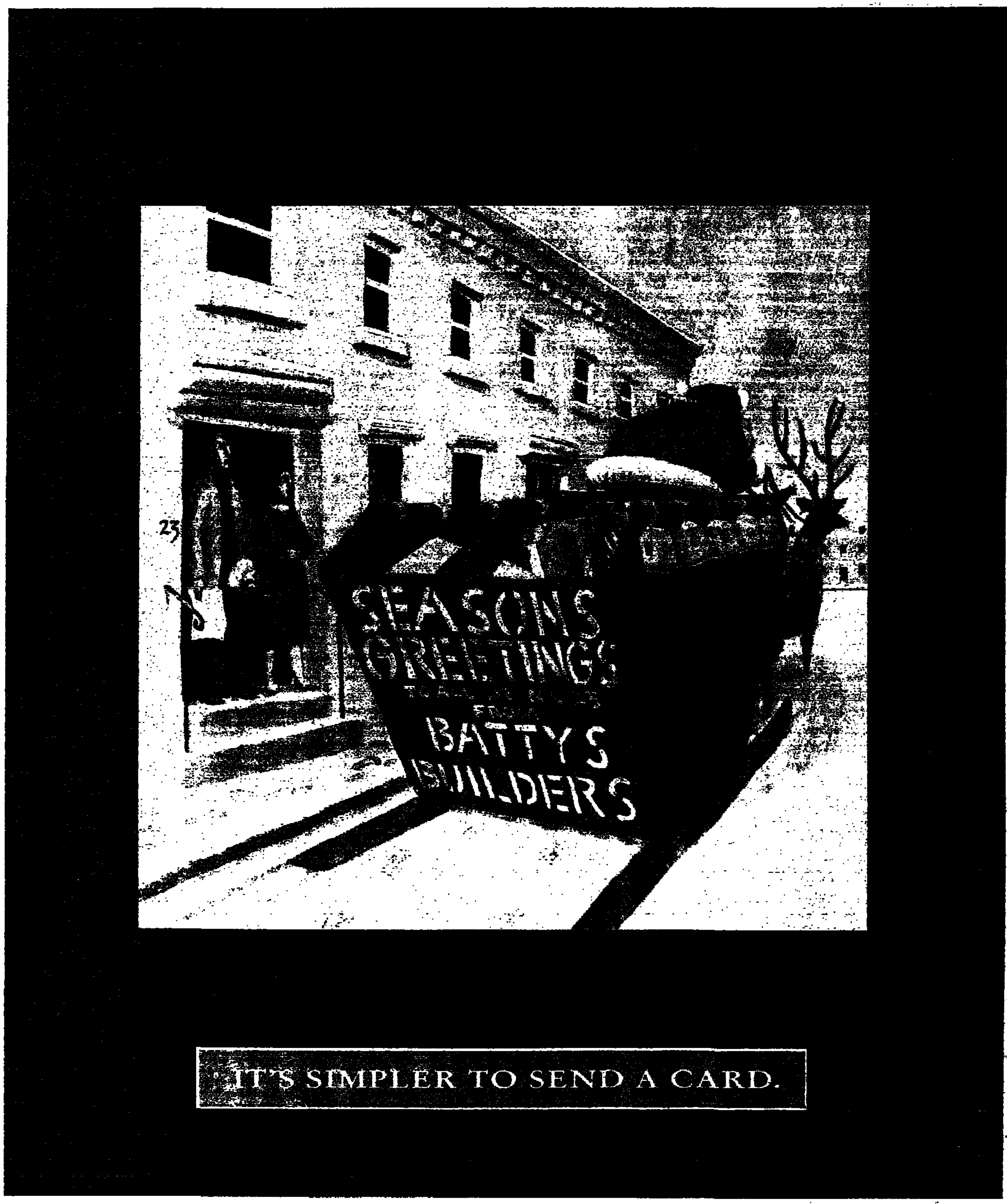
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	19.06	17.56
Belgium Fr	55.87	51.57
Canada $	2.365	2.205
Cyprus Cyp£	0.810	0.755
Denmark Kr	10.42	9.62
Finland Mkk	8.28	7.63
France Fr	9.12	8.47
Germany Dm	2.72	2.51
Greece Dr	421	396
Hong Kong $	13.80	12.60
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.75	5.10
Italy Lira	2646	2491
Japan Yen	204.50	188.50
Malta	0.641	0.586
Netherlds Gld	3.031	2.801
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.28	10.48
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
S Africa Rd	8.28	7.48
Spain Pta	223.50	210.50
Sweden Kr	11.86	11.06
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.12
Turkey Lira	179000	167000
USA $	1.776	1.646

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.6805 (-0.0005)
German mark
2.5833 (+0.0579)
Exchange index
94.0 (+1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2827.0 (+16.5)
FTSE 100
4058.0 (+39.3)
New York Dow Jones
6521.70 (+49.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
21020.36 (195.75)



If you run a small business and you'd like to say "Thank You" to your customers this Christmas, a card is the best way to get your message across.

It provides a nice personal touch that's warm and friendly without being over the top. And, unlike a business card which usually goes straight into the bottom of a drawer or the waste-paper bin, your card will be a thoughtful reminder of your services right up to Twelfth Night.

Post your cards (using our colourful festive stamps) and Royal Mail could help your company to have a more prosperous New Year.

A card makes everyone's Christmas.

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Ally.
Confidante.
It's even been called
a trade paper.

Because there will always be politics. Because there will always be cutbacks. Because teachers, heads and children have but one chance to do their best, don't miss your copy of The TES every Friday.

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Loyalty pay complements open era for accountants

By Jon Ashworth

EARNINGS at top accountancy firms come under scrutiny again this week when Ernst & Young and Pannell Kerr Forster become the latest firms to lay bare their books. The move accompanies reports that some firms are paying loyalty bonuses worth £7,000 or more in an attempt to retain newly qualified staff.

Ernst & Young will be the second Big Six firm to publish a full set of report and accounts following a trend set earlier in the year by KPMG. Then it emerged that Colin Sharman, KPMG's senior partner, received £739,753 in salary, pension contributions and profit share in the year to September 30, 1995. A similar move by Stoy Hayward revealed that partners earned an average of £92,000 last year.

Pannell Kerr Forster has promised a "proper disclosure" of earnings when it reports on Thursday. Ernst & Young, which publishes tomorrow, is expected to go further than KPMG, disclosing the earnings of the firm's top management team, as well as for Nick Land, its senior partner. It is also expected to disclose partnership profits over the past four years.

Firms are reported to be offering generous incentives to newly qualifieds, in an attempt to stop staff moving to better-paid jobs in industry. Deloitte & Touche is said to be offering pay rises of up to 17 per cent, with others offering 12 to 15 per cent rises. Firms including KPMG and Coopers & Lybrand are said to be pledging loyalty bonuses of between £6,000 and £7,000 to newly qualifieds who agree to stay for at least a year.

Industry observers say firms are anxious to retain staff at all levels. Robert Walters, chief executive of Robert Walters Associates, the financial recruitment consultant, said firms were paying the price for cutting back on staff during the recession. The increased threat of litigation is one factor encouraging partners to move into better-paid posts in industry, he said. Lawyers and investment bankers now earn substantially more than their accountancy counterparts, and tend to command generous all-inclusive packages, unlike partners, who are obliged to pay for car, pension and other expenses out of earnings.

More than 90 per cent of respondents in a MORI poll commissioned by KPMG were in favour of auditors opening their books to scrutiny.

AIM's value tops £5bn after placings and index rise

New issue level booms

Alexander O'Neal, second left, with Alan Bellman, Andy Taylor and Dai Davies, of Sanctuary

SEVEN companies joined the Alternative Investment Market last week, taking the weekly admission of new issues on the junior exchange to its highest level since the summer boom. All fetched decent premiums as the market's value broke through the £5 billion mark and the FT-SE AIM index jumped 11.3 points over the week to close at 1,035.20.

Shares of Goshawk Insurance, which underwrites for a Lloyd's syndicate, were placed at 110p, and closed the week at 115½p. Dawn Til Dusk, the convenience store group, joined earlier than expected at 115p and fetched a 6½p premium.

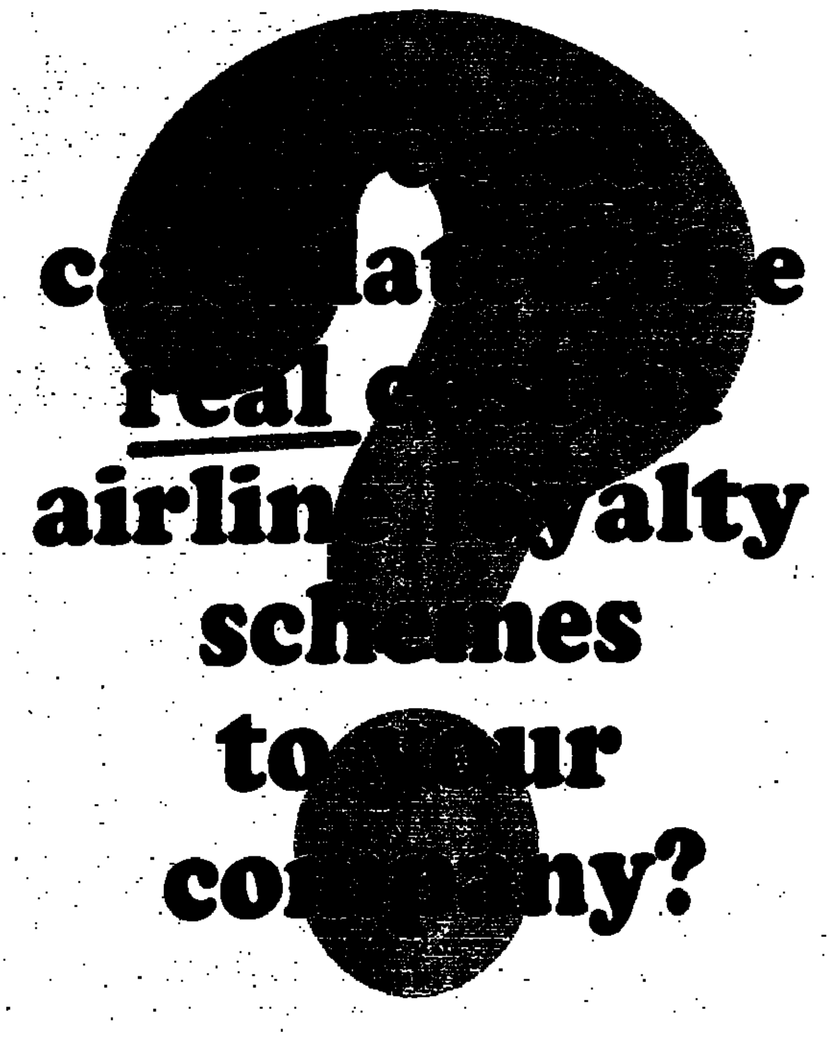
The next few weeks promise similar momentum. Open Systems, which makes accounting software, plans to become the first US company to join AIM without first seeking a domestic listing. Sanctuary Music joins AIM this month, at an expected value of £8 million. It jointly owns three record labels; its artists include Alexander O'Neal, Elvis Costello and the Pet Shop Boys.

A recent survey from Osborne Clarke, the City law firm, found that 64 per cent of AIM companies plan to move to the full list. But almost 18 months after the market's inception, none has so far succeeded in doing so.

Fraser Nelson

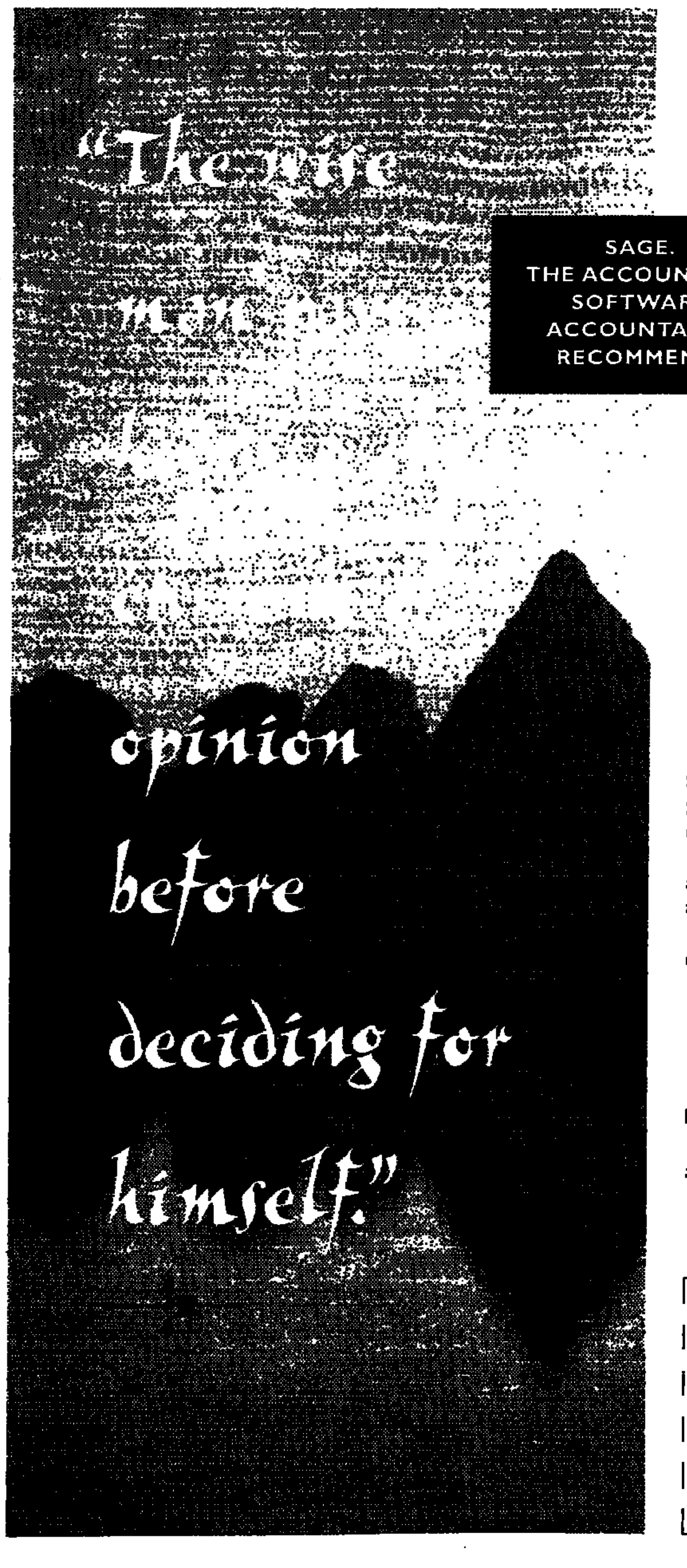
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
150½	132	13.90	AFA Systems	139½	− 6	...	...
151½	109	21.20	AMCO Corp	149	+ 10½	4.2	11.1
118½	67	22.50	AND Int Pub	108½	− 3	..	...
87½	18	4.65	Abacus Recruit	84½	...	..	24.1
15	14½		Abacus Rec P/P	14½	...		
107½	100½	14.40	Access Plus	102½		3.0	13.5
161	77½	14.20	Active Imaging	77½	− 6	...	
210	123	30.20	A de Gruchy	205		3.8	15.4
20¼	7¼	12.10	African Gold	11¾	− ½	...	24.9
85½	66	36.20	Airtech	79½	+ 3		...
28¼	13	10.30	Albemarle & Bd	27¼		1.1	14.9
58	30½	5.27	Allzyme	30½	− 7	...	
24	4	4.61	Alpha Omicron	6¼	+ 1½	...	..
495	380	46.20	Ann St Brewery	482½	− 2½	5.1	10.7
1025	885	6.07	Ann St Cv Pf	1025	...	7.9	..
127	48	58.00	Antonov	79½	− ½	...	...
9	7	1.78	Arion Props	7½	..	...	56.1
81	29½	26.40	Ashurst	30½	...	...	
142½	68	22.90	Ask Central	142½	+ 7		..
64½	55	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	...		...
149½	123	41.10	BATM Adv Comms	132½	...		...
68	59½	11.50	Barbican Health	59½	...		...
7½	7	10.80	Barrasford	7	− ¼	..	
4¼	4	7.55	Beachcroft	4	...		13.2
46	37½	3.33	Belcanto	37½			...
4¼	4	7.67	Beaufort	4	− ¼	..	45.7
150	140	1.01	Bowness Leis	147½	...	3.8	9.4
70	70	0.34	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	..
70	41	7.37	Brancote Hdgs	42½	...	...	
107	87	3.73	Br Bloodstock	88½	...	2.1	27.3
535	240	59.70	Brockbank	487½		1.9	15.8
142½	116	15.10	CA Coutts Hldgs	142½	+ 5	0.7	19.1
110	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	
140½	116	1.12	CCI Hldgs	140½			7.7
213	95	5.14	Cafe Inns	180	+ 4	1.7	13.9
75	55	8.21	Caledonian Tst	67			8.2
98	68	14.00	Cardcast	86½	− 1	0.7	19.8
43	27½	16.80	Card Clear	35½	− 1	...	
108	85½	8.67	Carisbrooke Ship	85½	− 4	1.5	8.1
72	48	3.11	Cassidy Bros	57	+ 2	6.6	10.3
57½	41	2.48	Cavendish W	56½	...	3.3	27.0
21	16	6.08	Celebrated Group	18¼	...	1.9	16.0
£325	6550	71.00	Celtic	£245	+2000	...	...
£275	6450		Celtic Pf Shs	£225	+2000		
124	108½	14.60	CI Comms(TV)	108½	− 8	3.3	12.7
6½	5¾	6.50	Charterhse	6½		...	14.5
86	37½	4.53	Chartwell Intl	39½	+ 2	...	...
125½	53	167.00	Chelsea Village	124½	+ 9	...	
215	120	9.96	Chemical Design	153		...	24.4
199½	173	21.60	Circle Comms	198½	+ 5		15.2
170½	131	35.70	Cirqual	170½	+ 7	4.3	
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	72.7
35	13½	5.70	ClubPartners	13½	− 4	...	..
510	485	11.60	Com de Prt Fin	485	...	3.2	
21	15	8.94	Concurrent Tech	19	...	...	...
100	85	0.24	Conc Tech A Prf	95	...	...	...
100	85	0.19	Conc Tech B Prf	95	...	...	...
125	115	0.84	Conc Tech Rd Pf	125	...	..	..
225	215	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	
44	37	8.14	Conister Tst	37	...	6.8	9.4
171½	58	28.30	Country Gdns	153½	− 14	1.1	15.8
120½	68	4.05	Cntry Gdns Pf	110½	− 4	6.0	...
109	42½	15.30	Creos Intl	42½	...	...	...
345	190	4.48	Crown Eyeglass©	280	...	5.4	7.2
63	32½	15.60	Crown Products	33½	− 4	...	...
502½	152	39.50	DBS Management	491½	+ 6½	3.7	10.6
38	28½	1.37	Dalkeith Inns	28½	− 1		
88½	60½	4.79	David Glass	88½	+ 11	7.3	9.8
122½	120½	4.27	Dawn Til Dusk	121½	..		10.3
1950	860	106.88	Dawson Hldgs	1912½	− 12½	2.1	16.8
17	11	5.30	Dean Corp	11½	− ½	2.2	10.2
164½	155½	10.20	Deep Sea Leisure	162½	...		
5	3	4.52	Dartmaster	3½	− ½	..	23.2
395	305	40.60	Dicom	395	− 20	0.4	27.8
111	78	14.80	Digital Anmtn	100½	..	.	
87½	80	13.60	Dmatek	72½			
4½	2½	2.89	Drings of Bath	3½	..		
137	39½	7.25	Easynet	50	+ 2½		
246	148	36.70	Elec Retail Sys	174½			
200	33½	28.60	Electrophoretics	43½	+ 6	..	...
116	61	15.10	Epic Multimedia	65	...		...
316	305	11.40	Eurasia Mining	305	...		...
125	120	5.62	Euro Sales Fa	125	..		
475	325	9.40	Fairlake	370	..		
53	41	2.39	Fayrewood	45½	...	1.1	9.0
138	102½	42.60	Fibernet	114½	− 9		
77½	57½	3.52	Fieldens	70½	...	2.7	9.3
265	75	5.54	Finl Publs	235	− 20		6.9
183	12½	2.53	First Inter	12½	− 1		
95½	90½	26.30	Fitness First	95½	+ 1	...	29.9
255	188	6.02	Flomerics	235	− 5	1.4	...
343	253	8.65	Floral St	287½	...	0.4	13.1
45	35½	7.14	FNR Hldgs	35½	..		
193	113½	13.40	Formscan	126½	...	2.2	13.9
45¾	14	170.90	Freepages	44½	− 1		
144½	93	8.55	Furlong Homes	142½	.	2.4	10.1
130½	122½	14.00	Future Int Telep	126½	..		.
23	15	6.10	Gabriel Trust	17	...	..	...
63	57½	18.50	Gall Thomson Env	59½		..	11.2
13½	8¼	34.90	Gander Hdgs	12	...	..	...
109½	77½	77.80	Gartland W&B	89½	− ½	..	
113½	81½	87.50	Geo Int Media	87½	− 10	..	...
23½	16	21.30	Gold Mines Sard	16½	− 2½	..	..
13½	8	5.09	Gold Mines Wts	9½	− 1½	.	..
115½	114½	39.10	Goshawk Insce	115½	...		
22	6	2.99	Greenhills	9½	...		.
15¾	13¼	1.78	Grosvenor Ltd	15¼		...	...
150	145	33.60	Guiton	149	+ 1	3.7	12.7
285	169	31.80	HIT Entertain	282½	+ 2½	..	..
41	8½	0.87	Hansom	8½	− 1	...	...
68	53	2.52	Hal Pin	57	..	6.0	7.6
275	155	6.22	Heavitree	275	...	2.6	17.0
255	180	9.90	Heavitree A	245	...	2.9	15.1
95	48	2.41	Hercules Prop	85	+ 45		5.2
138	118	147.80	Hiscox	120	...	2.6	...
80	65	0.87	Hurlingham	75	...	...	...
119½	111	7.57	Hydro-Dynamic	112½		...	..
297	139	25.70	IES	168½	− 1½	0.4	...
280	128	3.02	IES Wts	147½	..	...	..
96	65	17.50	Ind Brit Health	68½		..	.
116	67½	8.86	Indpt Energy	67½	− 5	..	...
134	105	21.30	Indpt Radio	119½	...		..
89	54½	10.60	Inner Workings	54½	...	...	...
88	63	15.50	Intelligent Env	69½	− ½	..	50.1
72½	43½	13.80	Internet Tech	50	+ 2½	...	...
177	159½	53.20	Interoute Tele	159½	...	...	...
692½	503	28.60	Intl Greetings	682½	..	2.7	13.8
165½	108	36.60	IOC Intl	149½	− 3	...	...
132½	122½	10.80	Jardinerie Intl	122½	..	...	..
103	67½	2.87	Jasmin	70½	+ 1	...	8.3
320	280	21.80	Jennings Bros	295	..	2.7	21.2
74¼	48½	9.62	Jordec	59½	.	..	11.7
5½	2¾	4.23	Just Group	2¾	− ¼	..	
3	2	0.25	Just Group Wts	2		.	.
125	82½	38.90	KS Biomedix	92½	− 1	.	
52½	47½	5.81	Kern River	50½			.
160	127½	44.40	La Senza	132½		..	
180	137	27.50	Lancashire Sn	150	− 5	3.3	13.7
323	210	19.80	Lawrence	322½	...	2.7	18.1
3750	2550	55.80	Lawrie Group	3150	.	2.8	9.6
307	255	50.90	Le Riches Strs	307	+ 12	6.9	12.7
17	12	0.80	Life Numbers	16			.
9	2	0.24	Life Numbrs Wts	7½	.	..	.
79½	67½	25.70	Loftus Road	69½	− ½		
16½	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¼		2.7	8.9
95	65	6.86	London Asia Pc	65			...
70	55	1.75	London Town	70		..	.
357	192½	39.20	Loxen Grp	344	− 1	1.3	28.7
4¼	3¼	5.62	Lotterybug	3¼	− ¼	..	41.7
1¾	1	0.17	Lotterybug Wts	1	..	.	..
160	21½	13.50	Magnum Power	29½	− 1	.	..
226½	187½	28.90	Majestic Wine	226½	+ 6	.	13.2
25	12	7.47	Mans & O'seas	12½		3.3	23.2
135	55	7.87	Marine & Merc S	65	− 5	.	.
125	107	2.51	Matrix Hlthcare	110	...		
12¼	11¼	4.14	Mears Group	11½	..	2.2	.
117	92	58.30	Megalomedia	100	+ 1½		56.1
104	79	1.00	Megalomedia Wts	91½	..		
113	67½	4.71	Melies	67½	.	4.8	12.4
475	22½	37.20	Memory Corp	61½	− 1	.	
55	18½	13.00	Meteor Tech	19½	− 1	..	.
43	15	0.36	Meteor Tech Wts	18½			
22	18	4.90	Metrodome	20		.	
93½	82½	5.34	Mondas	88½	− 2		
278½	156	21.10	Moorepay	278½	− 3½	1.5	23.9
200	67½	6.97	Mountcashel	92			19.2
203	147½	35.70	Mulberry Group	180	+ 3½	.	..
69	36½	11.20	MultiMedia	39	− 1½	.	77.4
19	17	1.25	NECA	17	.	..	
340	285	21.70	NWF Grp	285		3.5	12.6
210	175	13.40	Nash (Wm)	190	− 10	4.5	7.8
70	53	1.31	Nationwide Res Prps	62½		2.0	28.4
360	330	8.47	Neill Clerk	330		3.1	11.8
470	200	9.91	Nelson Cobbold	330	.	2.1	16.5
172½	118	52.70	Network Tech	169½	− 1	0.3	.
101	65	1.07	Norcity II	97½	.		
80½	63	1.56	Northomes	80½	..	...	50.8
76	32½	3.72	Nthn Petlm	32½	− 5		..
8	7½	0.12	Nthn Petlm Wts	7½	.		
117½	110½	46.60	Nursing Home	117½		4.0	26.2
180	85¾	31.50	Old English Pub	178	+ 1½	1.0	55.9
136	84	12.70	Omnicare	107½	− 1	1.3	16.6
75	11½	3.57	Omnimedia	14½	− ½	.	.
123	66	21.50	Loox	92½		...	.
3¼	1	29.50	Pacific Media	2¼	...	...	
140½	17¼	19.90	Pan Andean Res	45	+ 5	.	.
220	180	5.26	Park Estt(Lv)	220	..	4.5	16.0
21	8½	5.06	Pembertons	18¼	+ ¼	...	...
106	75½	11.90	Personal No Co	76½	− 1	.	..
560	292½	114.10	Pet City	470	+ 42½	..	.
337½	100	62.20	Philippine Gd	165	+ 7½	.	..
184	107	27.00	Polymasc Pharms	135	− 1½	.	.
4	2½	5.46	Pordum Foods	2½	− ½		
2	1½	0.33	Pordum Fds Wts	1½		..	...
600	400	8.57	Preston Nth E	595	.		.
105	100½	16.40	Primary Hlth Pr	102½	..	..	.
455	158¼	84.20	Prism Rail	455	+ 35	...	.
3	2	0.96	R Fraser Ast Man	2½	.	.	
782½	379	155.80	Ramco Egy	760	+ 5	0.2	
77½	32	6.97	Raphael Zin	77½	+ 3	2.0	48.6
100½	94½	16.20	Recycling Servs	100	.	4.0	
140	43	8.98	Reflec	127½	− 5		
6	4¼	1.54	Revelation Pic	5¼	− ½	..	5.0
18	15	11.20	Riceman Insce	17	.	..	
99½	62	4.71	Romtec	90½	..	2.6	21.2
4½	2	2.18	Rushmere Wynne	2		.	
1¾	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾			.
165	151	18.30	SCi Ent	155½	+ ½	.	
126	31	3.19	SCS Satellite	31	..	.	
75	47½	10.70	SEA Multimedia	47½	.		..
31	12½	0.94	Scotswood Inds	13½		9.3	12.8
49	23	5.05	Scott Pickford	40		2.8	15.4
68	28	12.80	Scott Pride	40½		.	.
320	270	15.40	Scrutons	320	..	5.1	15.4
76	64	14.60	Selector	75		..	
60	22½	2.07	Self Sealing	35½	..	..	..
145½	132½	6.99	Shalibane	145½	+ 3	3.4	11.9
183½	164	22.30	Sinclair Montrs	183½	.	..	.
5	3½	7.21	Sira Bus Serv	3½	− ¼	0.9	
1½	1½	0.29	Sira Bus Wts	1½	.	..	.
3¾	3¾	25.80	Skateboard	3¾		.	..
91	83	5.28	Solid State Sp	84½	.	4.2	13.9
597½	520	142.50	Southern News	591	+ 24½	3.8	16.8
79½	50	13.30	Southern Vectis	69½	− 1	3.4	16.1
297½	225	31.70	Staffware	273½		.	79.8
615	255	78.60	Stanford Rook	407½	+ 45	.	.
201	75	10.40	Stentor	147½	+ 1	...	
375	122	40.60	Surrey Fr Inns	366	+ 1	0.8	.
136	47½	6.37	Syst Integ Rsch	47½		.	
34½	6	4.91	TDS Circuits	23¼	− ¼	.	28.7
138	81	16.60	Theo Fennell	102½	− 7	..	.
15	7¼	14.40	Thomas Potts	8	..	...	...
116	73	15.40	Toad	91½	+ 4		..
56	30½	2.33	Tom Hoskins	30½	− 3	...	
915	385	20.90	TRACKER Netwk	395	− 5	..	.
185	100	24.10	Tradepoint Fcl	112	− 3	..	.
180	160	5.19	Trinity Care	170	+ 2	3.6	12.1
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	..	..	..
79½	44	242.30	Trocadero	48¾	+ 4¾		
179	143	23.40	UNO	167½		..	38.9
42	40	3.65	Univent	40	.	..	18.4
458	373	6.72	Utd Auctions	377½	.	2.7	..
255	147¼	26.40	VDC	255	.	2.5	16.3
22¼	13½	55.20	Versailles Grp	22	+ ¼	1.1	20.3
62	52	99.50	Victory Corp	52½		..	.
650	130	5.70	Viewinn	190	− 20		.
428	232	6.98	Voss Net	260		.	
57	46	12.70	Waterfall	49	− 3	..	
25	13	4.71	Watermark	25	+ 1		7.3
15	7	2.97	Wedderburn Secs	10¼	..	.	..
5	3	0.14	Wedd Secs Wts	4	..	.	
8¼	6¼	9.21	Weeks Group	7	...	1.6	16.1
130	115	4.83	West 175 Enter	125	− 5	..	
19	12	6.82	Western Selectn	13	...	..	47.9
6	3½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	.	.	.
50½	26	4.27	Westmount Engy	40½	..	.	61.8
95	89½	3.82	Whitecross	92½	..	..	..
175½	135½	27.00	Whittard Chelsea	170	− 2½	1.8	24.1
75	46	6.34	W'chester M Md	54½	+ 1	...	.
145	100	3.79	Wynnstay Props	120		4.9	16.9
13½	9	6.38	Xavier Comp	12	+ ½	..	.
340	170	28.10	Zergo	305	− 5	..	.



“some travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flights”

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)



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هكذا في الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Eyes have it for 3i chief

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, 3i's chairman, has been seeing treble since he splashed out £6,200 on a face mask. He bid over the odds at last week's auction of 500 celebrity-decorated masks in aid of The Prince's Trust. Sir George bid for one by fellow Geordie and rock star Sting, illustrated with nine eyes. Moshe Gerstenhaber, begetter of the campaign, is a 3i customer, so Sir George was on his mettle. Now, he wants Sting for a photo shoot, standing alongside his masterpiece at 3i's office in Waterloo Road.

Nervous tadpoles

JUST as tadpoles scatter when the water is disturbed, so did directors of Tadpole Technology after disappointing results. Neither of the contact directors mentioned in the official report to the Stock Exchange was near the stated telephone number. The only person fielding press inquiries was one of chief executive Bernard Hulme's minions.

Asda bash

WIVES and girlfriends will be pleased that Asda is hosting a Blokes' Night to help their loved ones through the Christmas shopping. Or will they? Casting an eye over Asda's top 20 gift suggestions — a peach foam bath decanter or a brush stand set — I'm not so sure. On Thursday, a football-free night, blokes are being tempted into Asda stores with beer and curry tastings, male makeovers, and in-store advisers.

NEWS of another leak at the Treasury. Staff in the Public Inquiry Unit were forced to evacuate their tiny corner of the Whitehall building after a radiator burst.

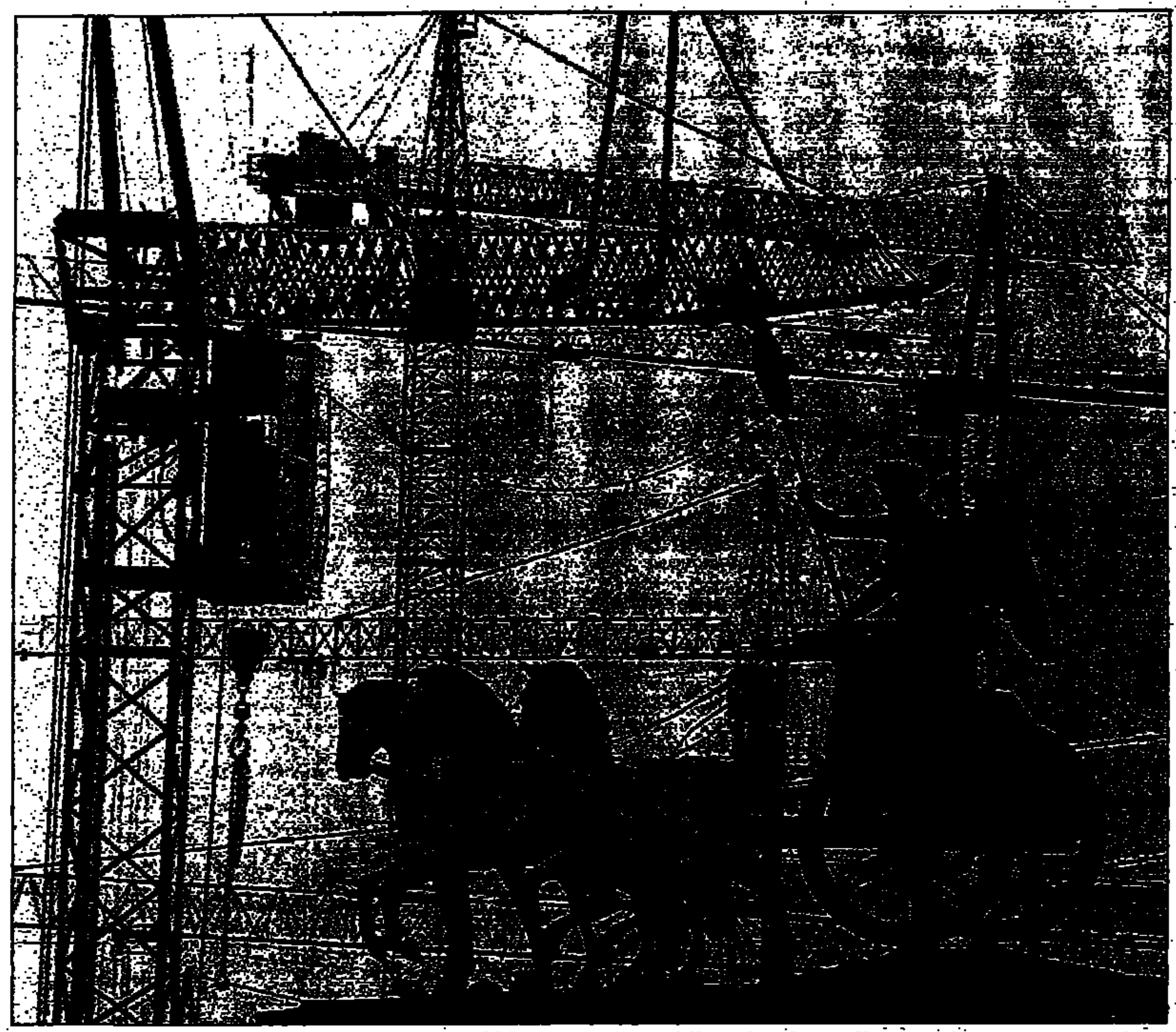
Off the cuff

BARRISTERS for Business is the new upbeat slogan for the somewhat sedately named Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry. The in-house barristers group has hit on the idea of marketing its own cufflinks to raise funds for various campaigns. Made in pewter, one reads "settle", the other "sue". Robert Owen QC, next year's chairman of the Bar, has been spotted sporting a pair.

MORAG PRESTON

When lax laws rock the foundations of business

Oliver August on the culture of bribery in Germany that is endangering its reputation overseas and ruining prosperity



While the Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of liberty, some building sites in Berlin are a home to corruption

José Ignacio López de Arriortúa will not go down in automotive history as the saintly saviour that he claimed to be. The charismatic Basque who always carries a rosary around had been hired by Volkswagen to slash costs. He claims to have saved Europe's largest carmaker DM8 billion but in the process he slashed much more than overmanning and costly supplier contracts.

GM claimed he used a VW corporate jet to ferry bundles of secret documents from General Motors, his previous employer, to VW's holiday cottage near its Wolfsburg headquarters, where the strategy papers and factory plans were copied and shredded one by one.

Unfortunately for Señor Lopez, GM found out that VW had bought its commercial secrets as well as Señor Lopez's services when it paid him the biggest pay cheque in German car history. GM chased him through the US racketeering courts and last Friday Señor Lopez finally resigned.

His fall from grace will draw renewed attention to what is possibly corporate Germany's biggest problem today. Corruption is seen as a more serious threat to profits than a strong currency, government regulation or high wage costs, according to a survey in a German business magazine.

The *Wirtschaftswunder* boom of the 1950s was based on honest hard work. After the war, the nation felt cheated by the Nazis who had promised to create a utopian world but brought shame, destruction and poverty to Germany. Ordinary Germans as well as the new — in many cases not entirely new — governing class were determined to create prosperity without deception or betrayal.

But the country's squeaky clean image became tarnished by a string of high-profile, but hotly contested, corruption cases this year. Jürgen Schneider, Germany's leading property magnate who was lent hundreds of millions of marks by bankers against properties whose value he allegedly inflated, now awaits trial in a Frankfurt prison after extradition from Miami.

Dieter Vogel, the chief executive of Thyssen, the steel group, once used to lecture captains of industry on ethics. Now he is being investigated by the Berlin justice department over claims that his company overcharged and exploited the Treuhand agency which co-ordinated the privatisation of East German businesses.

Possibly the most embarrassing case is that of Olaf Henkel, the president of the Confederation of German Industry. He rose to prominence as head of IBM in Germany. Now *Der Spiegel*, the German news magazine, has claimed that details of his personal bank account show that he received undisclosed payments from other leading German companies.

Ingo Baumann, an insider who has become a critic of corruption in construction, said: "Culturally, we always saw ourselves closer to Britain than to Italy. But I am afraid that today not every German businessman is also a gentleman. Too many have turned into *mafiosi*. From the small, incestuous bureaucracies in Bavaria to the huge building sites in Berlin, everywhere you need *Schmiergeld* [lubrication money] to get contracts."

Herr Baumann is convinced that a "culture of corruption" has evolved because so-called small sins such as tax evasion have become socially acceptable. Neighbours are said to openly swap ideas for new tax scams.

However, a new book on corruption in Germany claims the rise of bribery and fraud are the result of legislative laxity. Werner Rütger, author of *Economy Without Corruption*, said: "The double standards of the German justice system become obvious when you look at the tax laws: corruption is prosecuted, while the tax system actually aids it."

According to Herr Rütger, Germany's lax laws are the result of legislative changes made by the Nazis in 1934. They were desperate for funds in the aftermath of the world depression and had an ingenious idea. By allowing *Schmiergeld* to be treated as a cost item in company accounts, the Nazis could both receive bribes legally and tax the companies for them.

Herr Rütger writes: "Bribes were seen as regular business investments. Since then we have the *Nettoprinzip*, or value neutrality of the tax laws. It is today a principal and irremovable covenant in the German economy. The German tax code decrees since 1934 that there are no moral standards in economic decision-making. All that counts is the standard of profitability as set by each company."

As a convenient by-product of this law, bribes are tax deductible in Germany. Some companies have written off millions of marks under headings such as exceptional items or marketing and travel costs. The tax inspectors know what that means in cases of, say, arms manufacturers.

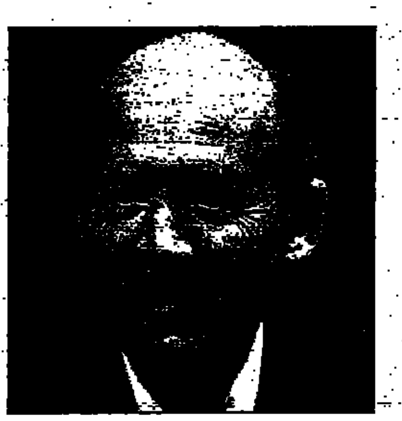
The SPD opposition party demanded a change to these arcane practices in the 1996 Tax Act. The Government — aware of the public disquiet over corruption — eventually agreed to a compromise. Bribes are no longer tax deductible if they are paid inside Germany. But this only applies where the briber has been convicted for bribery.

The Government defended the status quo by saying that there was a natural limit on how many bribes are actually reclaimed against tax payments. They pointed to the rule that the bribed actually have to be named in the tax forms. Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, said: "Nobody writes in their tax report: bribe."

The minister was supported by the whiter-than-white Herr Henkel of the Confederation of German Industry, who said the tax deductibility of bribes was made impossible by the requirement to name individuals involved. But both men overlooked a ruling by Germany's highest financial court. It allows exceptions where naming names would put future contracts in jeopardy and thereby threaten jobs and a company's continuing existence. Where there is a tax code, there must be a loophole.

The culture of corruption is no longer just seen as a threat to Germany's international reputation but as endangering the country's prosperity. Edzard Schmidt-Jortzig, the Justice Minister, said 3,000 civil servants who were found guilty of corruption had caused DM4 billion of damage in one year.

But the costs are believed to be even more significant. While the Government defends the compromise on bribes in the new tax code on the grounds that bribes abroad save jobs at home, anti-corruption campaigners argue that bribes actually destroy jobs because most foreign bribes are large, usually fail because of the number of companies competing for contracts and have to be paid for somehow.



José Ignacio López fell from grace

Growth keeps the UK behind in Europe's Grand Prix bond race

If the European bond market is likened to a Formula One Grand Prix race, then Porsche and Renault remain out in front but their lead has narrowed as Saab, Seat and Ferrari catch up. The Morris Minor is being overtaken by everybody. Gilts now even yield the same as Italian government bonds (BTPs).

However, the very fact that gilts are trading at par with BTPs is now lending support to the UK market. Some foreign investors perceive that such gilt yields are attractive on credit considerations alone (after all, the UK's debt/GDP ratio is less than half that of Italy, which is well above the psychological 100 per cent level). Further, the strength of sterling has meant that in total return terms gilts have outperformed other markets recently. However, I doubt that the "BTP effect" will support the gilts market much longer, for three reasons.

First, this link means that gilts are now vulnerable to a change in sentiment about whether EMU will start on time and whether Italy will be included. With governments appearing unable to agree over the stability pact at the Dublin summit on December 13, and with signs that some French officials have started to question the *franc fort* policy, the situation is ripe for a new wave of EMU scepticism. If the market starts to have doubts and Italian yields rise, then gilt yields could rise in tandem.

Second, earlier in the year gilts were in the same position against Spanish bonds, but this proved to be only temporary. Yields duly crossed over.

Third, whatever the European considerations, the negative domestic fundamentals will surely dominate eventually. If UK base rates are going to rise to the extent that the short futures contract is indicating, then the gilt curve would have to flatten significantly to leave longer-dated gilt yields at current levels. However, such a degree of curve flattening seems very unlikely with growth set to be at least as strong as the Treasury predicts. So the real question remains to what extent inflation and interest rates are going to rise.

Mr Clarke is undoubtedly hoping that he can avoid raising base rates again before the general election. In his Budget speech he rehearsed the arguments he will use to counter Eddie George when they next meet on December 11: commodity prices are stable, earnings growth is modest and producer price inflation is low.

Mr Clarke is also confident that the pick-up in underlying inflation seen in October is "temporary" and while this could turn out to be a hostage to fortune — the RPI data is due for release the day after the monetary meeting — my own forecast shows the underlying rate easing back slightly to 3.2 per cent next month.

The following month may prove more problematic if the French truckers' strike had a significant effect on seasonal food prices. The Chancellor may also be helped by the retail sales figures. November's seem likely to be quite weak, possibly depressed by the cold snap.

Christmas spending, in contrast, will be exceptionally strong, but seasonal adjustment is difficult over this period and, after a weak November, Mr Clarke can argue that they should wait for more data before taking a decision. As we get into the new year it is possible that consumers will become a little more cautious because of election uncertainty.

Nevertheless, even if the market is too pessimistic about the timing of the next base rate rise, few can doubt that ultimately they will rise sharply next year. The Budget was as tight as the politics allowed, but even so it has imparted a small stimulus to the consumer sector, the one sector of the economy that certainly does not need a further boost.

The rise in the pound will slow import prices, but this may not feed through into retail prices if retailers react by widening margins; and, in any case, there is already upward pressure on prices of non-traded goods that are not sensitive to the exchange rate.

There is also a significant risk that pay settlements will start to pick up, given labour market tightening and an increase in headline inflation.

Thus, the UK will continue to lag behind in the bond race, but only because it continues to take first place in the growth race.

GLENN DAVIES
Crédit Lyonnais

Answers from page 38

VENTRE A TERRE

(a) Flat out, as fast as you can go. The image comes from a horse galloping, like the French cavalry charging down on the English at Agincourt in Laurence Olivier's *Henry V*.

LE FIVE O'CLOCK

(b) Because tea is not a favourite French drink or meal, Parisians use the Franglais *le five o'clock* (a bit late) for tea time instead of their native *thé* and *goûter thé*. It is partly chic and partly jokey, like *tiffin*.

BOURRICHON

(b) Brainbox, nut or head. *N'avoir rien dans le bourrichon* is to have nothing up top, to be empty-headed. *Monter le bourrichon à quelqu'un* is to fill someone's head with silly ideas. *Se monter le bourrichon* is to kid oneself, or to work oneself into a frenzy.

MESSIEURS-DAMES

(c) Gays, "queers", "poufs", homosexuals. *Son bistrot a une clientèle de messieurs-dames*: His pub's a watering-hole for the gay brigade! *Bonsoir messieurs-dames* is the stock popular greeting when entering or leaving a public place. It is roughly the equivalent of Dixon of Dock Green's "Evenin' all!"

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The shocker called Wallis

Wallis: The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

"Divorce? The very idea! Our ancestry goes back to 1662. What would people say?" The shocked reaction of Wallis Simpson's family when she breaks the news about her intention to end her doomed first marriage occurs in part one of Elizabeth Proud's serialised drama. Of course, we know that there were many more shocks yet to come. But even now, years later, it is astonishing to be reminded just how many of them there were. There never was any danger that, as she predicts in this afternoon's scene-setting instalment, she would settle down to "a fairly comfortable old age", presumably husbandless. The American actress Stockard Channing plays Wallis, but we have yet to hear from Christopher Cazenove, who plays Edward, Wallis's number three

The Afternoon Shift. *Radio 4, 3.00pm.*

The division of labour — Laurie Taylor is the Monday and Friday presenter, Daire Brehan does the rest of the week — is working well. Taylor continues to suggest that he has just rushed into the studio, bursting to share some exciting discovery with us. Nobody dozes off when he is on the air. Brehan, like Sue MacGregor on *Today*, has the style and voice of someone whose forte is the delivery of considered judgments. She has more than made amends for the shortcomings of her compatriot, Gerry Anderson, who presented *Anderson Country*, late unlamented precursor of *The Afternoon Shift*. Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, includes at **12.30pm-12.45** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes Chart Hour and at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** John Peel's Classic Radio One Sessions **10.00** Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester **12.00** Claire Sturgess, including at **12.15am** The Net **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Melly on Monday: Herb Alpert (4/8) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl at **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Diane Madill, incl at **10.35** News from Europe **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sports Bulletin **7.35** Sportstrack **8.05** The Monday Match. Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Anna Raeburn **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Talking Sport **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Omnibus **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Andy Kershaw **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.05** Sport **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Omnibus **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Quote... Unquote **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Your Vote, Your Government **9.45** Founders of their faith **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record News **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Global Concerns **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Omnibus **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Feature **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Vaughan Williams (Bass Tuba Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Devienne (Bassoon Sonata in F major, Op 24 No 3) **7.00** Celebrity Choice (r) **8.00** Evening Concert. Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in F minor, RV297, Op 8 No 4, *Winter*); Beethoven (Romance in F, Op 50); Bruch (Scottish Fantasy, Op 46); Sarasate/Bizet (Carmen Fantasy); Vivaldi, arr Mas (Summer Fantasy) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Rahdel Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso); Britten (Sally in our Alley; Early One Morning; Ca' the Yowes)
8.50 An Advent Calendar. Bishop Jack Spong introduces Christmas carols performed by Highcliffe Junior Choir; Mark Hammond, organ and conductor Mary Dennisa
9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Dowland (Tarleton's Resurrection); Purcell (Now Does the Glorious Day Appear)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. Includes Telemann (Cantata Ich Werde Fast Entzuckt); Lotti (Crucifixus a 6)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Jean-Baptiste Lully. Roger Savage introduces music Lully wrote for the stage and explores his links with Louis XIV and Molière
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Kyoko Takezawa, violin, Philip Moll, piano. Tartini (Sonata in G minor, Devil's Trill); Strauss (Violin Sonata, Op 18); Ravel (Pièce en Forme d'Habanera)
2.00 *The BBC Orchestras.* BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Tadaaki Otaka, Dong-Suk Kang, violin. Dvorak (Carnival Overture); Sibelius (Violin Concerto); Smetana (From Bohemia's Woods and Fields; Vitava; Sarka, Ma Vlast); Enesco (Romanian Rhapsody No 1)
3.45 Voices: Carl Loewe, with Ian Bostridge, tenor, Gerald Finley, bariton and Julius Drake, piano (r)
4.30 The Baritone Saxophone. Saxophonist John Surman looks into the history of his own instrument, concentrating on the 1950s and the American Pepper Adams, Swede Lars Gullin and Briton Ronnie Ross
5.00 The Music Machine. Tod Machover, based at the media laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, talks about musical activities in the lab
5.15 In Tune. Includes Fauré (Mandoline); Lumbye (Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop); Handel (Worthy is the Lamb); Schubert (Impromptu in F minor, D935 No 1)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Andrew Davis, Ann Murray, mezzo. Weber (Overture Oberon); Berlioz (Nuits d'été); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat)
9.20 The Jesus Diary. Angela Tilby, series producer of BBC1's *Lives of Jesus*, asks Who Owns Jesus? God, Jew, rebel or ascetic, everyone wants their share
9.40 Barber (r)
10.00 Ensemble. Lynsey Marsh, *clarinet*, *Louise Hopkins*, cello, Thomas Ades, piano. Sibelius (Malinconia); Stravinsky (Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet); Brahms (Trio in A minor, Op 114)
10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall mix musical styles and influences
11.30 Composers of the Week: American Symphonists (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. A solo set from pianist George Shearing
1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** No Man is an Island: Letter from Vietnam **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week With Tom Sutcliffe, Sir Samuel Brittan, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Simon Schaffer and Francesca Kluge
10.00 News; Dear Diary — Writing the Queen: Ben Pimlott (FM). Ben Pimlott's biography of the Queen was front-page news when it was published this autumn. His diary reveals the story behind the book
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Money Box Live 0171-580 4444. Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on a topical issue affecting personal finances
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm The Heritage Quiz, with Sue MacGregor, Christopher Cook, Graham Fawcett, Jane Glover and Philippa Gregory **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Wallis — The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. See Choice (1/3)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift. See Choice
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker considers the relationship between photography and the stage, as a collection by Lord Snowdon is published
4.45 Short Story: Will you Marry Me? Written by Richard Brown and read by Joan Meredith
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue. Humphrey Lyttelton chairs another edition. With Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden, Barry Cryer and Willie Rushton (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme. A special edition, recorded at the BBC Good Food Show and presented by Valentina Harris (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: Sea Urchins, by Sharman Macdonald. Music brings together two families who are holidaying in the 1950s on a beach in Wales. With Celia Imrie and Sylvestra Le Touzel
9.15 Better than Sex. Blake Morrison talks about cycling in Suffolk (2/4) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archy and Mehitabel, by Don Marquis (6/8) (r)
11.00 Sentimental Journey (FM). Film director Alex Cox visits Southern Spain (2/6) (r)
11.00 Education Matters (LW)
11.30 Airport (FM) With Roger Griffiths (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Carol. Zoe Wanamaker reads Patricia Highsmith's story (8/12) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Confessions of a contented couch potato

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

I once made the awful mistake of admitting to a man I met in a pub that I had watched television the previous Saturday night. He called me a social cripple. This was some years ago: now, he would call me a social differently-abled person. The gist was that the only excuse for spending Saturday night in front of a televison was if you lived in a cardboard box in the doorway of Dixons.

This person returned to mind at the weekend. I expect he spent Saturday evening in some overcrowded restaurant wondering which car pound he would have to visit if the service became much slower. Whereas I was crippled with glee in front of the telly.

Not that I want you to think I normally watch **The National Lottery Live** (BBC 1). I switched on the set to get the football results from Ceefax but became transfixed by the image before me: Luciano Pavarotti and Elton John were standing at adjacent microphones singing a song.

I say "a song". *It sounded like* two songs that coincidentally shared the same tune without quite agreeing on a language, but they have recorded the song for charity so one had better not carp. And it was live! And it was exclusive! Gosh. The odds against Pavarotti and John singing a duet on the national bingo channel must be nearly as long as those against the infernal lottery machine failing to work.

I heard the song through and switched to Ceefax. Newcastle 1, Arsenal 2 — that would do nicely. I moved to the news headlines: "National Lottery delayed". What was this? The relevant page announced a technical hitch, apparently "the balls had failed to drop". We social cripples knew first.

Absolutely nothing failed to drop in **Moll Flanders** (ITV, last night) unless you wish pedantically to separate things that come down from things that go up. *Several pairs of trousers did the* dropping, while things that went up included skirts, bodices and bosoms, the last inflating fit to lift a Eurotunnel share.

This is an Andrew Davies adaptation: not that anybody else does them these days. I think that Davies must have cloned himself as part of some hideous experiment, to be revealed tangentially when he adapts *The Boys From Brazil*.

There are to be four parts to *Moll Flanders* and usually reliable sources say there are 17 sex scenes in all. After the watershed, a torrent. Daniel Defoe's book was, of course, a sensation in its time. The television version has pace but lacks rhythm, as if rushing through the boring bits between the lewd and the bawdy.

And Davies has invented a lesbian relationship, no doubt for splendid artistic reasons which have coincidentally excited the tabloids. Alex Kingston is convincing as Moll, though the telescoping of the plot left me unconvinced about her marrying Robin (Ian Driver) on the rebound from his brother Rowland (Colin Buchanan).

There is also a proven Davies technique, sadly unproven by this example. Moll narrates the story in flashback and also makes the occasional statement to camera. *But this is no House of Cards* and Moll is no Urqhart: the device seemed right from a scheming, literate prime minister, but jars from a scheming woman of Moll's earthier persuasions.

Last night's heavyweight item was also its most rewarding. **Lives of Jesus** (BBCl) is a four-parter in which Mark Tully explores Jesus in his varying aspects. Tully is best known, if not legendary, as the BBC's India correspondent for more than 30 years. He resigned two years ago in protest at being told to keep his criticisms of the BBC to himself.

But even John Birt's Auntie is a forgiving soul and Tully is just right for this job. He trained as a priest, for one thing, but more important is that he has lived for so long in India, a place where religious beliefs both collide and converge par excellence.

The series wanders the continents but the first part spent much of its time in India, listening to Hindus and others. They mostly concluded that the destination of religion, which is God, is more important than the route different religions take. This would appear to offer some cause for hope.

A clue to the fact that Tully's natural home is radio is offered by his presentational style. Most single-presenter television series are dominated by men striding across landscapes, enunciating Great Truths. Tully is not like that, he is something of a throwback to the days when television thought that the message might conceivably be more important than the messenger. So Tully is ever-present, but not very visible. I daresay believers in God will think that wholly appropriate.

Finally, a word about politics. Or several words about A Week in **Politics** (Channel 4, Saturday). This is unmissable for political *junkies such as I*, mostly because its co-presenters, Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley, regularly extract minor truths from politicians. On Saturday, Phillip Oppenheim, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, admitted that the tax burden as a percentage of GDP would be higher next year than it was in the last year of the last Labour government.

Well all right, he said: "Yes, but . . ." The rest of the answer had something to do with the Government putting more revenue into reducing borrowing than into reducing tax, but never mind all that. What with balls failing to drop and politicians forgetting to be evasive, *you had to be at home* in front of the telly to have something to talk about if you had gone out. As it were.

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (63192)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (81753)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T) (1224666)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4107685)
9.45 KILROY (6933734)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (87598)
11.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (3633918)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (5627531)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (4082622)
12.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (3525555)
12.05pm QUINCY (3670579)
12.50 THE WEATHER SHOW (30043376)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (84840)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (25525442)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29084918)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (5043)
2.30 WHO'LL DO THE PUDDING? (60)
3.00 INCOGNITO (4550)
3.30 THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY (1807956) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (2468550) **4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective** (1165840) **4.35 Record Breakers** (7951753)
5.00 NEWSROUND (T) (5519314)
5.10 BLUE PETER (T) (8811821)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (354918)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (89)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (69)
7.00 TELLY ADDICTS (6531)
7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD Includes a reports on a revolutionary eye operation to restore sight and a telephone so small it can be worn like a watch (53)
8.00 EASTENDERS Lorraine visits Joe in hospital (T) (2579)
8.30 CHEF! *Comedy series with* Lennie Henry (4314)
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather
9.30 PANORAMA: Barking Mad Should Britain change its anti-rabies laws (T) (656173)
10.10 BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA (T) (840685)
10.50 COMMON AS MUCK The Supercrew are down at the jobcentre wondering if they'll ever work again after the guarantee of an efficient refuse service from Propre UK. With Edward Woodward (r) (T) (907579) **WALES: 10.50** The Slate **11.20** Film 96 with Barry Norman **11.50** Common as Muck **12.45am** Smillie's People **1.30** Film: Teenage Caveman **2.35** News headlines; weather
11.45 FILM 96 WITH BARRY NORMAN Featuring *Jingle All the Way*, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and *Home for the Holidays*, with Holly Hunter, directed by Jodie Foster (T) (508666)
12.15am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8266642)
1.00 FILM: Teenage Caveman (b/w, 1958) with Robert Vaughn. Fantasy adventure about a young rock-dweller growing up. Directed by Roger Corman (2740777)
2.05 Weather (6595834)

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BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The All-Electric Home (7099550) **6.25** Technology (7018685) **6.50** Wheels of Progress (8322647) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (2341734) **7.30** Perils of Penelope Pitstop (5279918) **7.50** Blue Peter (r) (5273734) **8.15** Charlie Chalk (7393227) **8.35** Lassie (6309840) **9.00** The Worried Well (1231956) **9.15** In the Gutter and Other Good Places (5725753) **10.00** Playdays (2777685) **10.25** The Champions (8504260) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (6422668) **11.40** FILM: Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars, with Buster Crabbe (1938) (b/w) (1737555) **12.00** Ken Hom's Hot Wok (69192) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (97463) **1.00** Charlie Chalk (99090482)
1.15 *FILM: Bombardier (b/w, 1943) with Pat* O'Brien (60282666)
2.50 HOLIDAY OUTINGS: Fiji (3324840)
3.00 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (7470918)
3.05 THE NATURAL WORLD (r) (2714956)
3.55 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (6273024)
4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (82)
4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK (s) (66)
5.00 ESTHER (s) (4937)
5.30 GOING, GOING, GONE (s) (18)
6.00 SPACE PRECINCT: Protect and Survive Brogan and Haldane relocate to Planet Altor (r) (T) (s) (712395)
6.45 AS SEEN ON TV Children's camcorder films (s) (315840)
7.00 1914-18: Slaughter The battles of Verdun, the Somme and Passchendaele *(4/7) (T) (s) (918937)*
7.50 A WEEK TO REMEMBER Pathé newsreel from 1956 (976395)
8.00 HORIZON: The Time Lords The possibility of time travel (T) (688005)
8.50 GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO Highlights (T) (742685)

Julie Walters, Robert Lindsay (9pm)

9.00 WICKED WOMEN: BRAZEN HUSSIES Drama about male strippers with Julie Walters and Robert Lindsay (1/3) (T) (s) (4395)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (428647)
11.15 A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS: Pornography New series in which people try to persuade each other of their point of view (487550)
11.50 PRIDE OF DRESS A visit to the sheep-shearing festival in The Netherlands (s) (201840)
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (30970)
12.30 THE LEARNING ZONE: Open University — *Building the Perfect Beast* (84222) **1.30** Human Anatomy: This True Book of Ours (14864) **2.00** Believing: Other Worlds/Re Collection (31715) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (32357) **4.30** Defeating Disease (88951) **5.00** Pathways to Care (63154) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (48999)

CHOICE

Pond Life
Channel 4, 5.45pm

Lily Pond is, at a guess, in her late twenties or early thirties. Plain and bespectacled, she is unattached and still trying to escape the oppressive attention of her parents, who live three doors away in a dull suburban close. Lily, in short, is a sad case, but, as this is a sitcom, the pain is dispersed in jokes. Her creator is Candy Guard and, like the not *entirely dissimilar Simpsons, Pond Life* is an animation. The graphic style is basic but serviceable and provides the framework for a perceptive study of the female condition. That being so, the teatime scheduling is a puzzle. Apart from some fruity language, there is nothing offensive about the show, *but it deserves an adult audience and this* slot is not best guaranteed to give it one. The first episode finds our heroine in embarrassed pursuit of a new boyfriend.

Wicked Women: Brazen Hussies
BBC2, 9.00pm

Brazen Hussies is about strippers, which may seem an odd subject for a series of dramas on women and power in the 1990s. Until you discover that in Martyn Edward Hesford's brash and gaudy comedy it is the blokes who take their kit off, not the girls. Even Robert Lindsay strips down to his *underpants in the cause of art, or at least to* support Hesford's scenario about women fighting back against male assumptions. The fighters are a pub landlady (Julie Walters) and her friend (Crissy Rock), who, inspired by visions of naked male torsos, form a strip troupe called the Rude Boys. The losers are Walters's dull husband *(Alun Armstrong)* and Rock's ghastly partner (Lindsay) but the path of feminist protest does not always run smoothly. In one of the drama's frequent excursions into fantasy, Julian Clary appears as a scantily-clad Man in the Moon.

Secret Lives: Lord Beaverbrook
Channel 4, 9.00pm

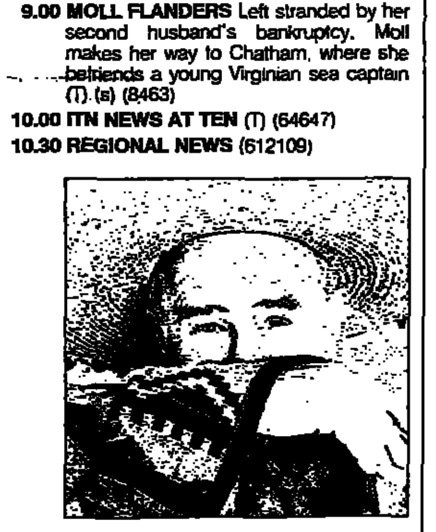
Beaverbrook was a millionaire at 30, moved from Canada to Britain to became a press baron and was a government minister in both world wars. All of this is touched upon in Leonie Jameson's lively portrait, but her main concern is with Beaverbrook's private life. We hear more about his several mistresses, his personal vendettas and his determination to exclude his family from his fortune than his newspapers or his political intrigues. The irony was that this compulsive philanderer never forgot his strict Presbyterian upbringing and worried that he might not get a place in Heaven. Michael Foot may say he loved him like a father, but Beaverbrook was a brute behind the charm. Sacking his greatest editor, Arthur Christiansen, was one thing. Humiliating him at the same time was another.

A Room With Two Views
BBC2, 11.15pm

Take two people, sit them on either side of a table and let them loose on a topic on which they have opposite opinions. An egg-timer (some egg!) marks out their allocated 30 minutes. Such is the formula for this new series, which is going out on three successive nights, this week and next. The lateness of the hour means that nothing is barred and we begin with a debate on pornography in which the language is explicit. Chris Tame defends porn, not only on libertarian grounds but because he sees it as a force for good. This cuts no ice with John Jordan, who was once addicted to porn and says it has damaged his life. It is a lively dust-up with. in debating terms, no clear winner. But as the temperature rises there is a tendency for both men to speak at once, with the result that we can hear neither. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7256753)
9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP With Dale Winton (4182376)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2754734)
10.00 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE With John Stapleton (30531)
10.30 THIS MORNING (60093173)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7125519)
12.30 ITN NEWS (T) (9039598)
12.55 CORONATION STREET (r) (T) (9828647)
2.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (59268032)
2.25 CROSS WITS (T) (42513109)
2.55 LOOK AND COOK (2736258)
3.20 ITN NEWS (T) (7487208)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7486579)
3.30 TOTS TV (5458901) **3.40 The Slow Norris** (1553802) **3.50 Wolves, Witches and Giants** (7353537) **4.05 Sooty and Co** (1179043) **4.25 All New Animaniacs** (1155463)
4.50 HOW 2 (8119005)
5.10 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (T) Shopper's quiz (7636821)
5.40 ITN NEWS (T) (170043)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (343463)
6.25 REGIONAL NEWS (501376)
7.00 THE LIST (T) (1227)
7.30 CORONATION STREET Alec may have the answer to Vera's problems (T) (21)
8.00 WORLD IN ACTION reveals what John Major, Tony Benn, Michel Roux and Vinnie Jones have in common (T) (7647)
8.30 POLICE, CAMERA, ACTION! The Man Who Shot O.J. Alastair Stewart goes on live assignments with helicopter news journalist Bob Tur, the man who was first on the scene with pictures of O.J. Simpson fleeing from the Los Angeles police (T) (9482)
9.00 MOLL FLANDERS Left stranded by her second husband's bankruptcy, Moll makes her way to Chatham, where she befriends a young Virginian sea captain (T) (s) (8463)
10.00 ITN NEWS AT TEN (T) (64647)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (612109)



Clive James in Mexico (10.40pm)

10.40 CLIVE JAMES — POSTCARD FROM MEXICO CITY *(T) The Antipodean* reports from the pollution capital of the world (611260)
11.40 HUNTER (494840)
12.40am BUSHELL ON THE BOX (8628770)
1.10 THE CRIME HOUR (2764357)
2.15 JONES AND JURY (8136628)
2.25 FILM: Thunder Run (1987) (129796)
4.05 COACH (26178680)
4.30 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (82777)
5.00 AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER (50680)
5.30 ITN MORNING NEWS (35425)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9064289)
1.25 CROSS WITS (30608550)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29081821)
2.20 BLUE HEELERS (9728024)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7636821)
6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (501376)
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (1227)
10.40 CLIVE JAMES POSTCARD FROM MEXICO CITY (611260)
11.40 BAGDAD CAFE (406208)
12.10am BEYOND REALITY (2750390)
12.40 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (6661999)
1.25 THE CRIME HOUR (2747680)
2.30 JONES AND JURY (4137067)
2.50 Film: THE GENTLE TRAP (6080845)
4.00 JOBFINDER (5885932)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
1.25-1.55 CROSSWITS (30608550)
1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21614802)
2.25 FRANCIS BISSELL'S WESTCOUNTRY CHRISTMAS MO(42513109)
2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (2736258)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7636821)
6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (95668)
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (1227)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSS WITS (9064289)
1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30608550)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (21614802)
2.25-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (9718647)
5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7636821)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (85)
6.30 PERFECTLY PETS (37)
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (1227)
11.40 BEYOND REASON (406208)
12.10am MERIDIAN WORKS (2750390)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 CROSS WITS (9064289)
1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30608550)
1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (29081821)
2.20-3.20 BLUE HEELERS *(6861289)*
5.10 SHORTLAND STREET (7636821)
6.30 ANGLIA NEWS (37)
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (1227)

S4C

Starts: 6.30am TAKE FIVE (47821) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (74463) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (74024) **9.30 Film: THE BELLS ARE RINGING** (66744802) **11.45 SKI WITHOUT LIMITS** (8587032) **12.00 RIGHT TO REPLY** (54260) **12.30pm LIFT OFF** (82531) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (77550) **1.30 Film:** ***TWO WEEKS IN ANOTHER TOWN*** *(38579)* **3.30 THE LIVING SEA** (43) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (50) **4.30 THE LONELY PLANET** (34) **5.00 5 PUMP** (9005) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (14) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (242395) **6.05 HENO** (361869) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (510208) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (621173) **7.25 Y BYD AR BEDWAR** (612314) **8.00 BACHA HI O'MA** (5289) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (7024) **9.00 FRIENDS WITH GABY** (6005) **10.00 SGORIO** (9192) **11.00 THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATCH** (872647) **12.20am TRANS WORLD SPORT** (4075715) **1.20 WOMEN AT PLAY** (5901154) **1.45 LUMBERJACKS OK!** (75406)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 am TAKE FIVE (47821) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (74463) **9.00** Here's One I Made Earlier (74024)
9.30 FILM: Bells Are Ringing *(1960)*. A musical starring Judy Holliday as a telephone answering service operator directed by Vincente Minnelli (66744802)
11.45 SKI WITHOUT LIMITS (8587032) **12.00** Right to Reply (r) (T) (54260) **12.30pm** Lift Off (r) (82531) **1.00** Sesame Street The guest is Maya Angelou (10314)
2.00 FILM: Ziegfeld Follies of 1946 (1946) A musical extravaganza starring, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and Judy Garland directed by Vincente Minnelli (5376)
4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (T) (50)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (34)
5.00 THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW A discussion on ridiculous reasons for leaving a partner (T) (2717869)

Dolly meets a new friend (5.45pm)

5.45 CHOICE **POND LIFE: Boyfriend** New cartoon series about Dolly Pond, an unemployed single girl (T) (177956)
6.00 MOVIEWATCH *Young critics comment* on three new releases: Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Jingle All the Way*, Gabriel Byrne in *Last of the High Kings* and Robert Downey Jr in *Home for the Holidays* (27)
6.30 HOLLYOAKS (T) (79)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) and weather (903005)
7.50 THE SLOT (961463)
8.00 DESPERATELY SEEKING SOMETHING Pete McCarthy continues his search for the meaning of life. This week he tries a spot of soul retrieval and joins Druids for a ritual (T) (2/4) (5289)
8.30 THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW Gaby Roslin introduces reports from Corfu, Norfolk and Iceland (T) (7024)
9.00 CHOICE **SECRET LIVES: LORD BEAVERBROOK** The press baron's secrets revealed (T) (6005)
10.00 HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET Bayliss and Pemberton clash with an arson investigator when they believe the death of a lawyer is homicide (T) (9192)
11.00 THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATCH introduced by Gary Imlach (872647)
12.20 am TRANS WORLD SPORT (4075715)
1.20 BLOOD, SWEAT AND GLORY Famous boxers (r) (5992406)
1.50 FILM: A Patch of Blue (1965). Weepie starring Sidney Portier as a reporter who befriends a blind and abused 18-year-old girl from the slums. Directed by Guy Green (974131)
3.50 FILM: Green Pastures (1936, b/w) A retelling of stories from the Old Testament Directed by William Keighley and Marc Connelly (7579390) Ends at **5.30**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4732463) **7.20** Press Your Luck (4752227) **7.40** Jeopardy! (3979647) **8.10** Hotel (5324444) **9.00** Another World (7819727) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (7674869) **10.40** Real TV (4597482) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9129482) **12.00** Geraldo (21444) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (71802) **3.00** Jenny Jones (37531) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (56666) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4956) **6.00** New Adventures of Superman (50956) **7.00** The Simpsons (5685) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4043) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (1005) **8.30** Can't Hurry Love (3840) **9.00** Picket Fences (80111) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (90598) **11.00** New Adventures of Superman (16463) **12.00** L.A.P.D. (63222) **12.30am** Real TV (24845) **1.00** Hit Mix (77970)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1715482) **8.00** Water Rats (1791802) **9.00** The Commish (1711666) **10.00** Under Suspicion (1714753) **11.00** Late Show (1139376) **12.00 FILM: The Double Man** (2531222) **2.00am** Hit Mix (8545086)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Perilous Journey (1983) (86550) **8.00 Running Free (1994)** (82918) **10.00 Curse of the Viking Grave (1991)** (46753) **12.00 Cool Runnings (1993)** (30799) **2.00pm** ***The Best Little Girl in the World*** **(1981)** (946227) **3.40 Gypsy (1993)** (61317598) **6.00 The Beverly Hillbillies (1993)** (42111) **7.30 El Features** (9111) **8.00 Cool Runnings (1993)** (68531) **10.00 Against the Wall (1994)** (901531) **11.50 Brainscan (1994)** (421799) **1.25am Ed McBain's 87th Precinct: Lightning (1995)** (8611406) **2.50 Natural Causes (1994)** (1451512) **4.20 The Beverly Hillbillies (1993)** (85544970)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Gypsy Colt (1954) (74181) **7.30 Master of the World (1976)** (15598) **8.30** ***Tintin: The Lake of Sharks*** **(1972)** (11840) **10.00 The Rains Came (1939)** (44395) **12.00 The Roots of Heaven (1958)** (12204802) **2.10pm** ***Big Dreams*** **and Broken Hearts: The Dottie West Story (1995)** (640531) **4.00 A Christmas Carol (1979)** (49376) **5.00 Master of the World (1976)** (7866) **6.00 Forbidden Memories (1995)** (92956) **8.00 The Other Mother (1995)** (64173) **10.00 The River Wild (1994)** (655227) **11.55 Striking Distance (1993)** (200734) **1.40am Hollywood Madam (1994)** (1822593) **3.10 Pretty Princess (1990)** (514135) **4.55 A Christmas Carol (1979)** (96213680)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Long Hot Summer (1958) (8057840) **6.00 Love Is a Many Splendored Thing (1955)** (3451579) **8.00 The Driver (1978)** (3456024) **10.00 Colors (1988)** (89943444) **12.05am 9½ Weeks (1985)** (1378086) **2.05 The Leopard (1963)** (73011777) **4.45 A Day's Pleasure (1919)** (35232574) **5.10-5.40 Pay Day (1922)** (80418593)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (4488753) **6.25** Quack Attack (4467260) **6.50** Bonkers (9371840) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (1996822) **7.40** Aladdin (3768840) **8.05** New Doug (3289111) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (3596444) **8.40** Sing Me a Story (8429173) **9.05** Grounding Marsh (5066173) **9.30** Big Garage (3578260) **9.45** Lamb Chop (604314) **10.15** Muppet Babies (3357006) **10.40** Wonderland (7090937) **11.10** Mouse Tracks (8425734) **11.40** Under the Umbrella Tree (9680395) **12.10pm** Fraggle Rock (3228956) **12.35** Lamb Chop (1898260) **1.05** Goof Troop (82568227) **1.30** Aladdin (94714444) **1.55** Darkwing Duck (94722463) **2.25** Bonkers (88215227) **2.50** *Quack Attack (3600314)* **3.20** *Timon and* Pumbaa (9119550) **3.30** Goof Troop (7207444) **3.55** Timon and Pumbaa (1606463) **4.05** Goof Troop (9268145) **4.35** Bonkers (2797734) **5.00** Aladdin (7929734) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (3232463) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (522482) **6.00** New Doug (2647) **6.30** Blossom (6227) **7.00** Brotherly Love (9685) **7.30 FILM: Freaky Friday** (65623647) **9.05** Home Improvement (191598) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (32463)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (52289) **7.30** Watersports World (35378) **8.30** Racing News (72579) **9.00** Motorsports: World of Speed and Beauty (56531) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (92821) **10.00** Asian Golf Show (60208) **11.00** Watersports World (40444) ***12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (76395)*** **12.30pm** Football Special (886579) **3.00** Football: Futbol Mundial (8192) **3.30** British Basketball (364937) **6.00** Sports Centre (4463) **6.30** Football: Tartan Extra (8043) **7.00** Football: Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool — Live (3185463) **10.30** Sports Centre (53444) **11.00** Football: Tartan Extra (93111) **11.30** Martial Arts: Bushido (73289) **12.30am** Monday Night Football (26715) **2.30-3.30** Sports Centre (43512)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Max Out (69353014) **12.30pm** Rebel Sports (43075482) **1.00** Golf: Sun City Million Dollar Challenge (95208424) **4.00** League Review (41520395) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (43050173) **7.00** Sports Centre (41501260) **7.30** Motor Sport (74176505) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (94759173)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Ski-Jumping: World Cup (40208) **9.00** Alpine Skiing. Men's World Cup (40956) **11.00** Bobsleigh: World Cup (50753) ***1.00pm*** *Triathlon: International* Grand Prix (86260) **2.00** Alpine Skiing: Ski Special (10376) **4.00** Karting: Elf Masters (87550) **5.00** Football. FIFa Futsal World Championship — Live (5729314) **6.15** Offroad (866840) **7.00** Speedworld (50821) **9.00** Strongman (11006) **10.00** Football: Eurogoals (14192) **11.00** Boxing (56005) ***12.00-12.30am Funsports (93244)***

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Runway (5275463) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (29842192) **6.45** Our Backyard (82359685) **7.00** Allsorts (7743260) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (8748840) **7.30** Children's Ward (1733937) **8.00** Classic *Coronation Street (1054208)* **8.30** Runway (1053579) **9.00** Families (1037531) **9.30** Crown Court Special (5564734) **10.00** Down to Earth (8540550) **10.30** Bless Me Father (1066043) **11.00** Lillie (1742685) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1057395) **12.30pm** Up the Garden Path (5568550) **1.00** Crown Court Special (1713173) **1.30** Families (5587821) **2.00** A Family at War (6558579) **3.00** Bless Me Father (1137531) **3.30** Down to Earth (1937734) **4.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (2687376) **5.00** Lillie (1151111) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (1933918) **6.30** Families (1957598) **7.00** Please Sir! (1152840) **7.30** Up the Garden Path (1946482) **8.00** Mapp and Lucia (8976005) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2409685) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (2450192) **10.00-11.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (8999956)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

See George Michael *Unplugged* at 9pm (MTV, from 5.30pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. *Includes The Good Life Style Guide*

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: John Paul Jones (2341598) **5.00** The Great Ships (1007227) **6.00** Swastika Over British Soil (4570482) **7.00-8.00** Biography: H Norman Schwarzkopf (6030685)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable.

6.00pm Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories (1084376) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (1096111) **9.00** Sightings (6036869) **10.00** Starman (6039956) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2339647) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (6712796) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6047512) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (6626864) **2.00** New Alfred Hitchcock *(3559390)* ***2.30*** *Rod Serling's Night Gallery* (3578425) **3.00** Friday the 13th (5448339) **3.55-4.00** Quarks (78884241)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am Toycraft (4139314) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2408753) **10.00** Wild at Heart (9784821) **10.30** Craftwise (4135598) **11.00** Room Service (1617289) **11.30** Craftwise (1818918) **12.00** Julia Child (4119550) **12.30pm** The Roux Brothers (2417869) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1457647) **1.30** Cookin' in the Kitchen (2409840) **2.00** Craftwise (7360192) **2.30** The Painted House (8610024) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (7389227) **3.30-4.00** New Yankee *Workshop (8622869)*
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8601376) **4.30** Roadshow (8690260) **5.00** Time Travellers (7351444) **5.30** Terra X (8614840) **6.00** Wild Things. Deadly Australian (8611753) **6.30** Wild Things: Yellowstone (8602005) **7.00** Next Step (7371208) **7.30** Mysterious World (8608289) **8.00** History's Turning Points (7380956) **8.30** *Wonders of Weather (7369463)* ***9.00*** *Trail*blazers (1115802) **10.00** Air Power (1125289) **11.00** The Astronomers (1467024) **12.00** No Man's Land (8654338) **1.00am** The Extremists (5095883) **1.30-2.00** The Specialists 2 (7455951)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2128579) **7.35** Crossroads (2822918) **8.00** Neighbours (9476598) **8.25** EastEnders (2817192) **9.00** The Bill (4108444) **9.30** Growing Pains (8392579) **10.30** The Sullivans (4137956) **11.00** The Onedin Line (1456289) **12.00** Crossroads (40044005) **12.25pm** Neighbours (40047192) **12.55** EastEnders (1047289) **1.30** I Didn't Know You Cared *(7907573)* ***2.05*** *A Little Bit of Emery* (85347289) **2.20** The Other One (1262550) **3.00** Sale of the Century (7381685) **3.30** The Bill (8624227) **4.00** Miss Marple (1833227) **5.00** EastEnders (6531869) **5.35** Crossroads (6451918) **6.00** Spring and Autumn (8613111) **6.30** Three Up, Two Down (7707376) **7.05** Bob's Full House (6311208) **7.45** Odd One Out (1756173) **8.25** The Perry Mason Mystery (22702604) **10.15** The Bill (4582918) **10.50** Spring Image (2398111) **11.25** The Best of Top of the Pops (5784289) **12.05am** Fourth Arm (3340777) **12.55** The Day of the Triffids (6914390) **1.50** Shopping (23033628)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (4477647) **6.20** Meltdown (4471463) **6.45** Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (178314) **7.15** Ready or Not (175227) **7.45** California Dreams (174598) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (629005) **8.45** Art Attack (9809395) **9.00** Tiny and Crew (9185024) **9.20** Brum (9165260) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (6431755) **10.00** Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (3712555) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (68935791) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (4773821) **11.00** Dinobabies (12260) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (20289) **12.00** Barney (98531) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (25173) **1.00** Casper and Friends (52550) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (94727918) **1.55** *Johnson and Friends* (41291550) **2.20** Bump (95183555) **2.40** Mr Benn (8065573) **3.00** Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (5550) **3.30** Ready or Not (9937) **4.00** California Dreams (8444) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (7956)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (67444) **6.30** Biker Mice (12173) **7.00** Rocko (8854753) **7.15** Hey *Arnold (7644937)* ***7.30*** *Rugrats (62666)* **8.00** Doug (64550) **8.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (63821) **9.00** Carmen Sandiego (54173) **9.30** Wishbone (90463) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (7379208) **10.10** Katie and Orbie (3613550) **10.35** Mr Men (2493598) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (2473734) **11.00** Clarissa (18208) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (58109) **1.00** Babar (42802) **1.30** *Katie and Orbie (93550)* **2.00** Little Bear Stories (5227) **2.30** Stickin Around (60043) **4.00** Hey Arnold (5956) **4.30** Rugrats (8529043) **4.45** Doug (8524598) **5.00** Sister Sister (6579) **5.30** Moesha (5192) **6.00** Round the Twist (2005) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (6685)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (9043) **7.30** Benson (2869) **8.00** Due South (37043) **9.00** Almost Perfect (96208) **9.30** Taxi (14043) **10.00** Entertainment UK (75666) **10.30** Girls on Top (84314) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (91753) **11.30** Nightstand (64531) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (60661) **1.00** Due South (35208) **2.00** Entertainment UK (38319) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (41154) **3.00** Girls on Top (48244) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (32406)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2483802) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2492550) **2.00** Automan (9789376) **3.00** The Champions (1809060) **4.00 FILM: Ethan Frome** (7367869) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2412314) **7.00** The Champions (1113444) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1122192) **9.00** Crime Story (1142956) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Demons** (1808531)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1722111) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1366956) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (3738734) **8.20** A Taste of Wales (1617260) **8.55** Turnabout (8829666) **9.35** Trivial Pursuit (6307050) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (6981821) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1482043) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1097734) **11.55** Brookside (22729869) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (40508840) **12.50** Gabrielle (2199289) **1.40** Rolonda (9759802) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2630598) **3.00** Live at Three (5672686) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2614550) **4.30** Talkabout (2888869) **5.05** Lingo (45067376) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2634314) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2631227) **6.30** Ready, Steady Cook (5735799) **7.05** Brookside (4557647) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4181192) **8.00** *General Practice (3443550)* **9.00 FILM: Portrait of a Showgirl** (36119482) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (8337227) **11.00-12.00** The Spicy Sex Files (1342376)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (2395) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (18550) **6.30** Catchphrase (9173) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (2531) **7.30** Hart to Hart (63685) **8.30** Duty Free (7774) **9.00** Bergerac (60395) **10.00** Stay Lucky (63482) **11.00** Rising Damp (44869) **11.30** Evening Shade (41956) **12.00** Lou Grant (72864) **1.00am** Bergerac (47864) **2.00** Hart to Hart (24086) **3.00** Lou Grant (19208) **4.00** All Together Now (99715) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (45319)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Cricket. India v South Africa (73221173) **8.00** Lifestyle East (73222802) **9.00** Gujerati Serial: Vat Nu Vatesar (39873666) **9.30** Cinemagic (77010579) **10.00** Urdu Serial: Red Card (74811937) **11.00** Cookery Programme Khana Khazana (63626802) **11.30** Parampera (27867005) **12.30pm** Nukkad (77014395) **1.00** Gujerati **FILM: Khama Mara Veera** (61349314) **4.00** Antakshari (34168685) **4.30** Hum Panch (34164869) **5.00** ZEE Zone (55786294) **5.30** Teer Kamaan (34148821) **6.00** Usha Uthup Show *(34145734)* ***6.30*** *ZEE and You (34169314)* **7.00** Cricket: India v South Africa (60068043) **8.00** News (59386259) **8.30** Sailaab (81225937) **9.05-12.00** Hindi **FILM: Aansoo Bane Angarey** (65051734)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
9.00pm Keep the Change (1992) (41452753) **11.00 MGM: When the Lion Roars** (50995531) **1.00am Love Crazy (1941)** (72235512) **2.45-5.00 Keep the Change (1992)** (76071390)

هكذا في الأصل

WEEK AHEAD 43

Carlton signals an improved performance

BUSINESS

CORRUPTION 46

Germany's reputation is at risk

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Abbey leads way to dearer home loans

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

ABBEY NATIONAL, Britain's second-biggest housing finance lender, is raising its variable mortgage rates by a quarter point this morning as a direct response to Kenneth Clarke's Budget.

The move is likely to be followed by Halifax and some other big lenders within the next two weeks. Savers, who Abbey claims are the main target of its rate changes, will be offered increases averaging 0.11 per cent from January 1.

The change will raise the payment on the average £50,000 Abbey mortgage by £1.65 a week. That is 1p more than the benefit of last week's income tax concessions to the average family, according to calculations by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Abbey mortgage rates will rise to 7.29 per cent for mortgages of up to £60,000, to 7.24 per cent for mortgages of £60,000 to £100,000, and to 7.19 per cent for higher amounts. The new rates will apply immediately to new borrowers, and to existing borrowers after December 18. Nationwide has already announced an increase to 6.74 per cent from today.

The new round of rate rises relates to the last quarter-point rise in bank base rates six weeks ago. At that time, most leading lenders adopted a wait-and-see policy until the Budget to avoid two costly changes in quick succession. Since then, evidence has grown that the housing market is gaining strength and could bear higher charges.

Abbey now says that it always intended to raise rates to compete more effectively for deposits. Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, acknowledged that investors, who outnumber Abbey's 1.6 million borrowers by seven to one, have been suffering from a "low interest rate environment", and earning less than 4 per cent.

As a verdict on the Budget, however, Abbey's response is far from critical. It argues that it is moving now because Mr Clarke's cautious Budget made it unlikely that there would be another early rise in bank base rates. This is the subject of hot dispute among financial traders in the City.

Halifax, the biggest mortgage lender, has made it clear in the past that it did not wish to raise rates but would do so if big rivals acted first. It confirmed yesterday that the move by its nearest competitor would spark an immediate review of its rates.

Halifax is likely to wait until after the meeting of the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, scheduled for December 11. That would also allow it to respond to the details of Abbey's new savings rates, due on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Halifax will report that house prices have risen by about 7 per cent in the past 12 months, with a further modest rise in its index in November. Many of the extra buyers have opted for fixed-rate mortgages, partly to avoid early rate rises.

Abbey says that demand for fixed-rate mortgages has trebled with the rate of 6.25 per cent for three years plus a 2 per cent cashback. This rate will now be reviewed. Lenders have been trying to phase out special promotions to boost profit margins as the housing market improves but have not fully succeeded yet.

These arguments are likely to feature strongly in the debate between Mr Clarke and Mr George. The buoyancy in housing supports claims for higher base rates, but the Chancellor can claim in turn that a modest autonomous rise in mortgage rates will stop the recovery overheating, without the damaging short-term effects on the economy of a general rise in interest rates.

Insurance move, page 44

SFO wants more talk to fight fraud

By Robert Miller

FRAUDBUSTERS from international agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Interpol, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Scotland Yard, and leading bankers meet in London today in an attempt to tackle money laundering and fraud in the global banking system.

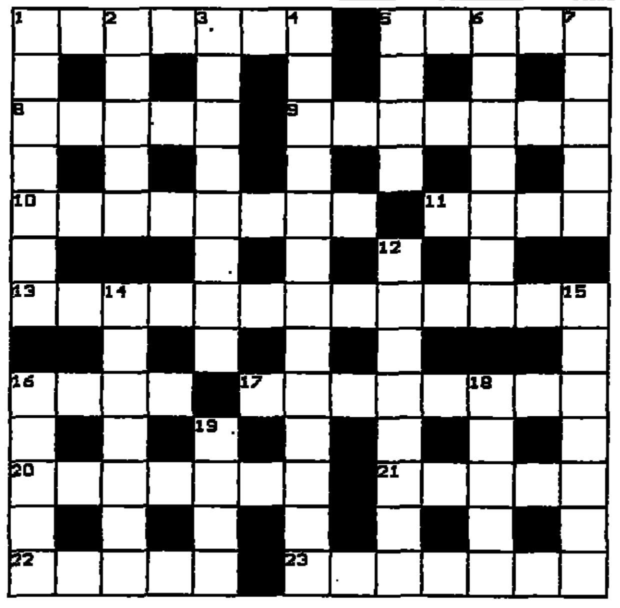
The SFO will argue at the three-day convention that the only effective way to fight fraud and money laundering is to encourage a three-way dialogue between civil watchdogs, fraud squads and banks in different jurisdictions.

Since the SFO's Section 2 powers were extended to help overseas authorities, the office claims to have received 60 requests for assistance from more than 25 countries.

Brendan Hewson, a former UK fraud squad officer and now senior vice-president of NationsBank, which is sponsoring the convention with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Banco Santander, said: "We want to encourage banks to achieve a global banking standard in which due diligence and know your client are the international bywords for prudent management.

"Financial crime is the common denominator that affects us all and can do irreparable harm to both established and emerging economies."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 954

ACROSS
- 1 A release (from painful life) (7)
- 5 Small, delicate (trinket) (5)
- 8 Nimble (5)
- 9 Supervise (7)
- 10 Fabled land of wealth (8)
- 11 Cheese skin (4)
- 13 (Technologically) up to date (5-2-3-3)
- 16 Little boy attending eg bride (4)
- 17 Passage in eg hotel (8)
- 20 Capital of Sicily (7)
- 21 Good talk; processed cocaine (5)
- 22 Fortunate (5)
- 23 Garden area for alpines (7)

DOWN
- 1 Friends (7)
- 2 Trojan War poem (5)
- 3 Unproved explanations (8)
- 4 Evelyn Waugh trilogy (5,2,6)
- 5 Coffin stand (4)
- 6 Daughter of Shylock (7)
- 7 Tip over (5)
- 12 Of the rib-cage area (8)
- 14 Seraphic (7)
- 15 Old warder (7)
- 16 Student (5)
- 18 Cover with cloth (5)
- 19 Animal hunted for food (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 953

ACROSS: 1 Podium 4 Warder 8 Gulp 9 Tomahawk 10 Downgrade 13 March 15 Laden 16 Knead 18 Chronicle 21 Phonetic 22 Giro 23 Remote 24 Romney

DOWN: 1 Pagoda 2 Delaware 3 Meter 5 Agamemnon 6 Dial 7 Rakish 11 Goldcrest 12 Adder 14 Reaction 16 Kipper 17 Melody 19 Oscar 20 Boom

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Marjorie Scardino, whose recent promotion is seen as a role model for the campaign

Business plans to reinforce 'better deal for women' drive

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders will today reveal sharp gains made by companies that have taken part in the Prime Minister's initiative to improve opportunities for women in management. It will proclaim the success of efforts to break female employment barriers and urge more small companies to follow suit.

Heads of key UK companies will claim that measures taken to realise greater equality at work have brought benefits to men as well as women through more reasonable working hours and flexible working arrangements. Such changes improve companies' financial performance by reducing labour turnover and scaling down recruitment and training costs.

They will join Lady Howe, chairman of the Opportunity 2000 campaign, to spell out the improved position of women in business since the campaign was launched five years ago by John Major. In companies and other organisations supporting the campaign women occupy more than three times the number of management posts than in British companies generally.

At senior management level the campaign will show that women account for 17 per cent of posts in member companies, up from 9 per cent when it started, and that 60 per cent of its members now offer flexible work arrangements, against less than 30 per cent at the start.

Greater acceptance of women in management is helped by the high-profile appointment recently of Marjorie Scardino as chief executive of Pearson. Mrs Scardino is the first woman manager to run a top 100 quoted company in Britain.

Since its launch the number of organisations joining the campaign has grown from 61 to some 310, covering about a quarter of the UK workforce. They include ICI, Boots, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Unilever, Bank of England, GrandMet, BBC, Royal Mail, Dixons, Midland Bank, John Laing, WH Smith, BT, Halifax and British Airways.

But the campaign, which is backed by the CBI, TUC and Equal Opportunities Commission, will also emphasise today the need to take the drive to provide more opportunities for women into smaller firms, with the help of small firms' organisations and chambers of commerce. A fifth of Opportunity 2000 member organisations has fewer than 500 employees.

To support the achievements of the campaign, its leaders will point to the evidence of Rank Xerox, which says that culture changes favoured by the campaign have generated a return of more than £1 million through savings in recruitment, retraining and lost productivity.

Women's leaders will also emphasise that a drive for equality brings benefits to men as well as women, especially over issues such as long hours at work. Liz Bargh, director of Opportunity 2000, says: "We have overwhelming evidence that this approach works, and ... benefits business."

Lang likely to refer Bass deal

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

THE Office of Fair Trading is believed to have ruled against the planned purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass, a £205 million deal that would create Britain's biggest brewer with a market share approaching 40 per cent.

The OFT sent its advice to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, late last week, and it is thought to have strongly advised that the deal be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to decide whether it should be allowed. Mr Lang has until Christmas Day to decide whether to refer the bid, to clear it entirely or to insist that Bass and the OFT agree conditions to allow the merger.

City observers believe that the OFT opposition, and the political impact of job losses that would follow the deal, mean that Mr Lang is already inclined to choose a reference.

Mr Lang could extend the deadline into next year. He took the option of an extension with another controversial takeover, the hostile £766 million offer by CalEnergy of the US for Northern Electric. However, the Department of Trade and Industry made clear on Friday night that the Christmas deadline would be met, with no further delays for a takeover that has been brewing for more than a year.

Bass will this week face questions on the progress of the merger when it presents full-year figures on Wednesday. A successful takeover would see Carlsberg, previously joint owner with Allied Domecq of Carlsberg-Tetley, take a 20 per cent stake in the combined brewing operations. However, job losses would result. Bass has said annual costs would be cut by £90 million within three years.

Sir Ian Prosser, Bass's chairman, has pledged that no breweries will be shut, if the deal goes through without conditions. However, analysts believe that the main savings would come from closing part of the combined distribution networks.

For this reason, a reference to the MMC is seen as the most likely outcome.

JANET BUSH *looks* at the battle between France and Germany over control of the euro

Lobbying by Recs delays onset of competition

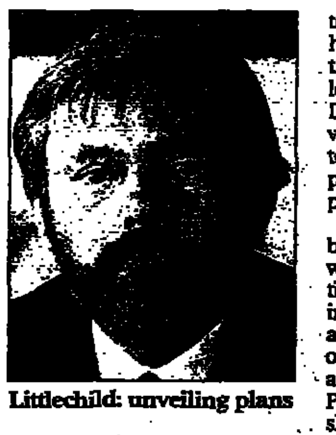
By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

MILLIONS of households will have to wait longer to shop around for their electricity under new plans to be announced by the industry regulator this week.

It is expected that competition in domestic electricity — which had been planned by the Government to start in April 1998 — will not reach all homes until at least six or nine months later. Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, is expected to unveil plans for phasing in competition. The most likely method is by postcode or by billing cycles.

Professor Littlechild's move comes after heavy lobbying from the industry. Company chiefs say that competition to all 25 million households could not happen in one go without serious risk of chaos. Regional electricity companies (Recs), which are responsible for establishing the mechanics to enable competitive trading, have privately complained that the scheme has lacked leadership. But both Professor Littlechild and Tim Eggar, when he was Energy Minister, have warned the companies against stalling to protect their monopolies.

However, the regulator will be mindful of the confusion which followed the introduction of competition into the industrial market two years ago. Widespread disruption occurred, with many billing and metering difficulties, and Professor Littlechild was sharply criticised by the electricity pool's auditor. The phasing approach to 1998 marks a climbdown for the regulator, who has until now insisted that the April deadline must be met.



Littlechild: unveiling plans

Tory blue wins colour vote

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH business has thrown its weight behind Tory blue, hailing it as a colour associated with professionalism, efficiency and trustworthiness. But brown shoes, as favoured by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, are definitely out. And John Major is still the grey man of politics.

Most UK companies favour blue in business presentations and sales literature, according to a survey by Gestetner, the colour photocopier specialist. Choice of colour was often as important as choice of words when it came to getting the message across, helping to explain why Pepsi spent $500 million rebranding, luckily choosing the right colour.

Colours to avoid include grey and brown, which suggest "boring", and black, which means "unfriendly", according to the survey of 100 business people. Green is the colour most associated with "friendliness", but also suggests "lack of professionalism", making it a bad choice for business. This is unlikely to impress familiar high street operators such as Marks & Spencer and British Petroleum, both of whom have every reason to be satisfied with their green livery.

More than half the respondents thought John Major "grey", and Tony Blair "red" — a colour associated with professionalism by only 20 per cent of respondents. Red, however, is seen as a creative colour.

Brown suits and shoes are "out" when it comes to business. For men, navy blue suits create the best impression.

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